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This Gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter

Open to me the Gates of righteousness I will go into them and I will praise the Lord

Knock and it shall be opened unto you

The Gates of Prayer

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THE

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"Prayer is a Golden Key, which should open the Morning and lock up the Evening."

"Then shall the people of the Lord go down to the Gates."
Judges v. 11.

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THE WRITER

DEDICATES THIS VOLUME,

WITH DEEPEST FILIAL AFFECTION,

TO THE DEAR MEMORY OF

Her,

WHO FIRST LED HIM AND HIS

TO

The Gates of Prayer:

AND WHO, WHILE THESE PAGES ARE PASSING

THROUGH THE PRESS,

HAS HAD OPENED TO HER THE HEAVENLY GATES,

AND ENTERED INTO THEM, TO

PRAISE THE LORD.

"*Thy business on Earth was to watch over and pray for us: and so faithfully, so fervently was it done, that the blessing of thine intercession is not yet exhausted, but, like a dew from God, will drop down upon us, as long as we live.*"—THOLUCK.

"THIS GATE OF THE LORD INTO WHICH THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL ENTER."

THIS volume needs no Preface; save to invoke the Hearer of Prayer, with whom is "the residue of the Spirit," to cause His Angel to fly swiftly, and touch our hearts and lips as with a live altar-coal, in the time of our Morning and Evening oblation. To use the words quoted in the title-page, "Prayer is a Golden Key, which should open the Morning and lock up the Evening." We can say of it, what Christian said to Hopeful in the dungeon, "I have a KEY in my bosom that will, I am persuaded, open any lock in Doubting Castle."

The author may be permitted to state, that two classes of persons, with sympathies and experiences apparently having little in common — viz., those engaged in active worldly business—"the battle of life,"—and those who are members of the wide Family of affliction,—have seen meet, more numerously than others, to express their acknowledgments for help and comfort de-

rived from a previous manual of private devotion—"Morning and Night Watches." Among these, moreover, not a few have encouraged him to hope, that after the lapse now of many years, another similar auxiliary, such as this aims to be, might not be unacceptable. It will be seen in the pages which follow, that he has not lost sight of either of these two classes, among the diverse crowds who love, morning and evening, to throng around "the Beautiful Gate of the Temple."

"Mark the hour and turn this way,
  Sons of Israel far and near!
Wearied with the world's dim day,
  Turn to Him whose eyes are here,
Open, watching day and night,
Beaming unapproached light!

"There is One will bless your toil—
  He who comes in Heaven's attire,
Morn by morn, with holy oil;
  Eve by eve, with holy fire!
Pray!—Your Prayer will be allowed,
Mingling with His incense cloud!"

Keble.

"O God! the Light of the hearts that see Thee, and Life of the souls that love Thee, and Strength of the thoughts that seek Thee, . . . in whom to abide is to stand fast for ever: grant me now Thy grace and blessing, . . . and though unworthy to approach Thee, or to ask anything of Thee at all, Vouchsafe to hear and answer, for the sake of our Great High Priest and Advocate —Jesus Christ our Lord."

ST AUGUSTINE.

Morning.

"Slowly the gleaming stars retire,
The Eastern heaven is all on fire;
Ere the bright flush of morn be o'er,
Thy blessing, Lord, for one day more!"

Evening.

"Sins of the day forgive, O Lord!
Keep Thou to-night our watch and ward:
Safe in Thy favour may we be;
Thou at the helm—our hearts with Thee."

1st Morning.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."—Phil. iv. 19.

All need supplied.

O God, my Heavenly Father, who hast permitted me to see the light and to enjoy the comforts of a new day, I bless Thee for the liberty of access into Thy presence. Rend Thy heavens and come down; fill my heart with Thy love, as I draw near to the footstool of Thy Throne. I thank Thee for Thy gracious assurance that these Gates of Prayer lead to an abounding treasury of spiritual blessing, out of which all my need shall be supplied. In Jesus, my adorable Redeemer, infinite fulness dwells; and out of His fulness—the riches of Thy glory in Him—Thou art willing to impart even grace for grace.

Thou hast supplied all my need in the *past*. *Thou* hast been a loving,

a bountiful, and a wise Provider; preventing me with the blessings of Thy goodness, and giving help from trouble, when vain was the help of man. I look to Thee for guidance and direction in the future. That future is veiled and hidden:—but it is in Thy better keeping. I would say, in simple confiding faith, "Undertake for me." Hitherto hast Thou been true to Thine unfailing promise "As thy day is, so shall thy strength be;" and over every coming need and exigency I may well write "Jehovah Jireh," "The Lord will provide."

Supply that need this day. If called to do battle with evil, let me go forth in Thy might, panoplied for the conflict. Strengthen me with Thy good Spirit: fortify me against every temptation. In the extremity of my own weakness, may I lean on Thine Almighty arm: hold Thou me up, and I *shall be safe.* Preserve me from the

world's insinuating, seductive power, and from the treachery and deceitfulness of my own evil heart. Order my steps in Thy word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. In the discharge of duty, may it be my effort and endeavour to subordinate the secular to the sacred. Keep me ever roused from the low dream of earth, to see, as in the patriarch's dream, the ladder of God. May Thy providences be as angels travelling up and down that ladder, and beckoning me "nearer to Thee." Keep me from whatever would be detrimental to my spiritual interests: from all avarice and selfishness; from all malice and uncharitableness; from all indolence and sloth; from putting off till to-morrow what can be best done, and may only be done, to-day. If Thou hast given me of this world's goods, may I seek to be a generous almoner of Thy bounties. If silver and gold I have none, may I give Thee the

consecration of the heart, and the answer of the life; knowing that Thou acceptest, according to that a man hath, not according to what he hath not. Forbid that my talent, be what it may, should be hid in the earth. May I ever listen to the prompting "How much owest thou thy Lord?" and with a quickened sense of my responsibilities to Thee the Great Creditor, may I be diligent, that I may be found of Thee in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Supply the need of those whom I love. Wherever my friends are, O Thou ever-present God, protect and defend them by Thy mighty power. If Thou sendest them prosperity, keep them from being intoxicated with it: if Thou sendest adversity, keep them from being unduly depressed by it. Enrich them with the blessings of Thy covenant grace. May we all be bound up together, on the great reaping-day of *Judgment*, in the same bundle of life.

Supply the need of those who are in sorrow. When human cisterns are emptied and human props removed, may they know Thee as the Portion that cannot be taken from them. May they honour Thee by being dumb in the midst of perplexing dealings—recognising these as the ministers of Thy will, sent on a mission of wisdom and mercy, and that while they are only planning for time, Thou art planning for Eternity. May they trust Thy sure word of promise, that though now they may see through a glass darkly,—when death shall have rent with his wing the obstructing cloud, in Thy light they shall see light. May the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, direct their hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

Bless the nations of the earth. Hasten the day when the nameless wrongs of a now groaning and travailing creation *shall* be redressed; when

all heathen shrines shall be demolished; when will-worship and superstition shall cease. Turn the world's sighings into songs of gladness. Cause its sinful unbelief, the lust and tyranny of passion, the twin curse of slavery and war, to yield to the benign sceptre of the Prince of Peace. Increase the ministry of holy lives, and loving deeds. Purify Thy churches more and more. Stimulate them to greater energy in Thy service. As witnesses for Thee may they seek with augmented and ever increasing fidelity to shew forth the Word of life: and may Thy faithful ministers enjoy at last the blessed testimony, that they have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Listen to these my humble prayers, and when Thou hearest forgive and grant me an answer in peace for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO *INTO THEM*, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD!"

1ST EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life."—JOHN iii. 16.

The greatest gift.

ALMIGHTY GOD, I desire to approach Thy gracious presence on this the evening of another day. I bless Thee that I can come to the Gate of prayer and know it to be a Gate of love. If the vast creation be Thy temple, this is its "Beautiful gate," for God is love. All other powers of Thy universe are vassal to love. It is Thy nature, Thy name, Thy glory. No earthly friend could have loved me and cared for me like Thee. Man's love is finite, Thine is infinite. Man's love is changing, Thine is unchanging. Man's love must sooner or later die;—change it may—perish at some time it must;—but Thine is alike from everlasting to everlasting.

Thou hast given me the mightiest proof of Thy benignity and condescension in the gift of Thy dear Son. His advent might have been for the world's condemnation—but "God sent *not* His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." It might have been to pronounce the woe of eternal death; —"but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Lord, if such has been Thy love to me, how poor and cold and inadequate has been my return to Thee! I have before me, this night, the memories of neglected duty, slighted warnings, broken vows, forgotten mercies, resisted grace. I feel how sin darkens the understanding—perverts and alienates the will—deadens the heart—depraves the affections. I acknowledge my deep creature destitution; my sins of nature, my sins of practice; my shortcomings known to my fellow creatures, my sad-

der failures in heart and life, in principle and in duty, alone known to Thee. I have too often stifled the accusations of an upbraiding conscience;—I have permitted the ascendency of worldly influences;—I have bent like a brittle reed before the power of temptation.

I flee anew to the shelter of Thy love. May my faith be simpler—deeper—truer. May I have a humbler reliance on the efficacy of the blood of atonement; and by the loyalty I owe to my Redeemer, seek to make a fresh dedication of myself to His service. I would see too, in the gift of Jesus, the pledge of all minor blessings. Let me have no over-anxious care for the future. With the Cross of Calvary before me, may I leave the unknown morrow, with all its solicitudes, in the better keeping of a faithful covenant God. "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him." Lord,

mould my heart more and more in conformity with Thy holy will. May I find pleasure in nothing without Thee; maintaining a constant and habitual hatred of those sins which have again and again severed me from Thy favour. Keep me from pride and passion—from fretfulness and discontent—from envy and jealousy. Repress all inordinate and unlawful desires. May the faculties of my being and the strength of my affections be surrendered to Thy service. May my soul be filled with the one absorbing passion of love to Him who first loved and so loved me.

Look down in kindness on my friends and relatives. May it be theirs also, through the Redeemer's merits, to have the gift of eternal life. May they be among the number of them that love Thee, who are said to be "as the sun when he goeth forth in his might."

I pray for all whom Thou hast visited with tribulation. May they know that

Thy purpose in bringing them into the threshing floor, is to separate the chaff from the wheat. May they see the winnowing fan in Thy hand—preparing the grain for the heavenly garner. May all sick ones whom Jesus loves, triumph in His love: may the thought that Thou didst not spare even Thine own Son, hush every repining word: may they remember that every sorrow that wounds them has wounded Him. May dying ones listen to the pleadings of the Great Intercessor, "Father I will, that they also whom Thou hast given me be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory."

Save Thy people and bless thine inheritance. It is upon a Rock Thou hast built Thy church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Be Thou as a wall of fire around Thy Zion and the glory in the midst thereof. May God be known in all her palaces *for a refuge*. May the watch-

men on her walls be men of faith and men of prayer, who make mention of the Lord and keep not silence, until He establish and until He make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

I desire to compose myself to rest at peace with Thee, exulting in the plenitude of Thy love in Jesus. Thou God of love and of peace—be the guardian of my sleeping hours;—and may every night as it comes round, find me more and more meet and prepared for entering on the great heritage of everlasting life, through my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD!"

2D MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"—ROM. viii. 32.

The Omnipotent challenge.

O GOD, I come into Thy blessed presence, thanking Thee for the rest and the refreshment of the past night. I laid me down and slept, I awaked for the Lord sustained me. Thou mightst have made my pillow a pillow of death. But I am once more among the living to praise Thee;—permitted to bend, a suppliant at the Gates of mercy, and to invoke the presence and benediction of the prayer-hearing God. I bless Thee for Thy daily bounties of creation and providence—for food and raiment—for health and strength—for social and domestic comforts and endearments; for much that is bright and joyous in my lot. Keep me from the abuse of

any of Thy gifts, by permitting them to supplant the Giver: may they rather be hallowed and sanctified by linking them with Thyself the Great Bestower. May I be enabled with grateful heart to say, "All my fresh springs are in Thee."

I thank Thee especially for Jesus, my gracious Redeemer, the Son of Thy love. I bless Thee that He, before whom angel and archangel, cherubim and seraphim, hymned their triumphant anthems, "laid His glory by,"—assumed our nature—and travelled down to this valley of tears, that He might lift us up from our state of ruin and degradation, and invest us with the glories of immortality. By all that He hath done and taught and suffered; by the mystery of His holy incarnation; by His completed atonement and perfect righteousness; by the merits of His Sacrifice; by the virtues of His holy life as the all-perfect pattern; by His Intercessory work and mighty

pleadings at the right hand of the Father—accept of my unworthy person; pardon my daily sins;—receive the fresh consecration of soul and body to Thy service. I will wash my hands (not in my own innocency) but in His, so shall I now compass Thine altar O Lord, and with the Golden key of Promise unlock the Gates of Prayer. After this mightiest pledge of Thy love, Thou givest me a blank to fill up as I please with all other needed benefits. Thou puttest into my lips the gracious challenge "Wilt Thou not with Him also, freely give me all things?"

Deepen in my heart the sense of my obligation to so gracious a Saviour. Strengthen my trust in His unutterable —unalterable love. May His righteousness clothe me—His blood cleanse me—His grace uphold me—His Spirit sanctify me. May it be my daily and lifelong aspiration to be more and more assimilated *to* His glorious image.

Even should I be called to suffer with Him here, may I cheerfully bear the cross, and remember that this is only a prelude to my reigning with Him hereafter.

Be with me this day in my ordinary avocations :—whether these be household duties, or buying and selling and getting gain. Preserve me from using any means for the advancement of my own interests, on which Thy blessing cannot rest. May I move uncontaminated through the world's various scenes. When temptation assails me, give me grace to resist it. Enable me to put a restraint on all angry or resentful passions, all uncharitable thoughts or insinuations ; to seek to avenge injuries with love—unkindness with forgiveness, —manifesting patience in the midst of provocation. May I seek to defend a brother's character and extenuate his failings, — considering myself lest I *also be tempted*. Conscious of the

supreme enthronement of Thy love in my heart, may I be zealous in duty—patient in tribulation—humble and thankful; living under the sovereignty of that loftiest motive, to walk and act so as to please Thee. That so, when Christ shall come again, He may not find me asleep and unready,—but prepared to go forth joyfully to meet Him in the company of His ransomed.

I pray for all the members of my household. May they be members of the household of faith—heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ—having their names written in the Lamb's Book of life. I pray for friends at a distance. May they enjoy the fellowship of an ever-present never-absent God. May Jesus be their stay in life, their strength in prosperity, their prop in adversity: and may the music of His name soothe and refresh their souls in death.

O Thou, whose heart of old bled for human *misery*,—whose pathway through

the world was paved with compassion; who in Thine infinite tenderness didst gather around Thee the poor—the helpless—the sick—the sorrowful—the brokenhearted, and, as the Great Physician, didst heal them all,—bend Thy pitying eye on all who are in any ways afflicted or distressed in mind, body or estate. Prepare the dying for death. As they feel the chill of the falling shadow, may they think of Him who has taken the substance of death away, and left nothing but the shadow. Grant that when the silver cord is loosed and the golden bowl broken, they may enter on the full fruition of those unspeakable joys which Thou hast prepared for them that love Thee.

Hear these my unworthy supplications—and all I ask is for Jesus' sake. Amen

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD!"

2D EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God."—ISA. 1. 10.

Trust in the Dark.

HEAVENLY FATHER, I come into Thy presence through the blessed gateway of Trust; desiring to repose in the name of the Lord and to stay upon my God. The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it and is safe. This is Thy name and this Thy memorial throughout all generations—the Lord the Lord God, merciful and gracious. Thou art infinite in power and boundless in resources. Yet, though Thou art the mightiest of all Beings, Thou art also the kindest and the best of all. With Thee, there is an ever-open door of welcome, for the poor—the helpless—the doubting—the desponding—the backsliding—the lost. While

justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne, mercy and truth go continually before Thy face.

How wondrous has been Thy sparing mercy in the past! The axe might long ago have been laid to the root of the tree:—the mandate might have gone forth, "Cut it down." Yet with all my grievous guilt and constant backsliding, Thou art not "upbraiding;" Thy hand of love and forbearance is stretched out still. Forbid that I should be tempted to give way to unbelieving doubts and misgivings, when Thou art thus waiting to be gracious. Let me not distrust the riches of Thy Sovereign love and grace in Jesus, or fail to hold fast the beginning of my confidence. O Thou who turnest the shadow of death into the morning, enable me to confide in Thee in the midst of dark and perplexing dealings. Thy name is often "Secret"—Thy counsels are often "wonderful:" walking in darkness

Thy people at times fail to descry the light. But let it be our comfort to know, that this fitful day, made up often of light and shadow—clearness and gloominess, is "*one* day *known* to the Lord;" and to trust Thy promise, that "at evening time it shall be light." O Lord our God who is a strong Lord like unto Thee? Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, Thou stillest them. Speak Thine own "Peace be still," and immediately there shall be a great calm.

Abide with me for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. Forgive, for Thy dear Son's sake, all the ills I have done this day;—all shortcomings in duty—all selfish and unchristlike deeds—all tamperings with sin and temptation—all breaches and infringements of the golden rule,—whatsoever would exalt myself at the expense of others. In the time to come, do Thou prevent me with Thy most gra-

cious favour and further me with Thy continual help. May the Lord God be a sun and shield ;—a sun to lighten me in the midst of darkness—a shield to protect me in the midst of trouble. Impart to me that charity which beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Deliver me from all unkind and censorious thoughts; from all reproachful and resentful words. O Thou who didst bear nameless wrongs and indignities, —give me grace to overcome evil with good ;—remembering the saying of Thy servant, "When ye do well and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God." Keep me from all corroding cares and feverish anxieties ; —let me ever confide my troubles in Thine ear. Let the blessed influences of the truth as it is in Jesus, permeate and penetrate with their leavening power every daily duty, and brace me for the endurance of every trial.

I pray in behalf of all who are in sorrow; those suffering the infliction of bereavement, those enduring the pang of unspoken griefs, those hearts which know their own bitterness, walking in darkness and having no light. Preserve such, also, from the indulgence of a hasty spirit under dark dispensations. Let them know that in sending into the furnace, it is for purification not for destruction;—to refine as the gold,—to fit the better for Thy service here, and for Thy presence hereafter. Meanwhile, let them trust in the name of the Lord and stay themselves upon their God. May they too be enabled to say "I have remembered Thy *name* O Lord in the night and have comforted myself!" Prepare the dying for death. May they hear the voice of Jesus proclaiming—"I am the resurrection and the life, he that liveth and believeth on me shall never die."

Bless all near and dear to me. May

they have the seal of the life-giving God on their foreheads. Protect the young from those snares and temptations incident to early years: preserve them unspotted from the world: keep them as the apple of Thine eye; hide them under the shadow of Thy wings; and whatever separations time and distance and bereavement may make on earth, may there be at last, for severed hearts, a glorious and deathless re-union before Thy throne.

Again I commend myself to Thy Fatherly benediction. Watch over me during the night, granting me quiet and refreshing sleep. Let me go forth to the duties of to-morrow, and every new day, girded afresh for the conflict—trusting in the name of the Lord and staying upon my God. And all I ask is for Jesus' sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD!"

3D MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee."—ISA. xxiv. 4.

Perfect peace.

O GOD, Thou God of peace, who hast brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep,—meet me as I now stand by the Gates of the mercy-seat, and fill me with all joy in believing. Gracious Redeemer, Thou Prince and Purchaser of peace, draw near to me in infinite love, and say, as Thou didst to Thy disciples of old, "Peace be unto you; receive ye the Holy Ghost." Grant me throughout the day Thy benediction and blessing. May the peace of God which passeth understanding keep my heart. May I walk in the light of Thy countenance, under the sense of Thy presence and favour,—enjoying the comfort of the divine assurance, "Thou wilt keep

him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee."

Lord, Thou knowest the causes of dispeace and unrest;—my sins and corruptions, my trials and difficulties, my struggles and burdens. I confess that the guilt and the misery of sin is all my own. Thou knowest that there has been often discontent where there should have been cheerfulness; murmuring where there should have been rejoicing; indolence where there should have been activity; self and selfishness where there should have been generous consecration to Thee, and a kindly interest in the well-being of those around me. If I have not been enjoying this perfect peace, O Thou author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life—whose service is perfect freedom, speak Thine own omnipotent word, and immediately there will be a great calm. I would bring *my* sins to the Great Surety:—I would

lay bare my wounds to the Great Physician. Blessed Saviour, renew and ratify to me, this morning, Thy gracious gift and legacy "My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth." Looking to Thee, loving Thee, trusting Thee, Thou wilt prove my Shield in danger, my Refuge in adversity, my Comforter in sorrow, my Light in darkness, my Hope in death, my Defender in judgment, my Joy and Portion through eternity. O Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world, grant me Thy peace!

If, this day, in the course of my duties, whether in the quiet of home or in the bustle of the world, there be any thwarting of my will, or crossing of my plans, or wounding my spirit,—let me manifest a spirit of meek endurance. Let me seek to deny myself and take up my cross and follow Christ. Give me the blessing promised "to him that walketh uprightly and worketh righteousness."

Preserve me at all times from sacrificing principle to temporal advantage. May I know the pleasure in some lowly way of doing good. May I seek to forego and conquer what pleases self, and to become more and more rescued from its iron tyranny. Enable me to struggle with my besetting sin whatever it may be; whether pride or ambition, malice or envy, indolence or sloth, lust or passion. May I seek ever higher acquisitions in the life of faith, and onward progress in the path of obedience; that so, when the hour comes which shall dissolve the tie binding me to the world, at peace with Thee and with all mankind, I may fall asleep in Jesus.

Thou Great Peace-giver, impart Thine own gracious gift to all who need it. Give rest to the weary, hope to the desponding, wisdom to the ignorant, salvation to the lost. Promote *true unity* among Thy people. Let the

watchmen on the walls of Zion see eye to eye. Hasten the time when the jarring and dissonant notes in the church militant shall cease, and when the bonds of brotherhood shall link nations as well as believers together. Terminate everywhere the reign of godlessness and vice, of error and superstition. Look in mercy on Thine ancient people who are still beloved for their Fathers' sake. May they be brought to own and welcome Him whom they have so long rejected. Let Israel's Alleluia be added to the Gentile Hosanna. Tell the daughter of Zion "Behold Thy King cometh."

Bless all poor afflicted ones. May they be enabled in the midst of their trials to say, "If He giveth peace, who then shall give trouble?" Let none despair when Thou smitest, nor faint when Thou rebukest. With a bow of promise set in every cloud, may they be cheered with the hope that they

shall ere long come to look within the portal, beyond this land of drought and of the shadow of death; where the flock shall be led, for ever, by the living fountains of waters, and every tear shall be wiped from every eye.

These and all other needed blessings for myself and others—I ask them all, in the name of Him whom Thou hearest always, Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour:—to whom with Thee the Father, and Thee ever-blessed Spirit, Three in One in covenant for our salvation, be ascribed, as is most due, all blessing, and honour, and glory, and praise, both now and ever, Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD!"

3D EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"I will work, and who shall let it."—ISA. xliii. 13.

The Great Supreme.

O GOD, I desire to come into Thy blessed presence, on this the evening of another day, adoring Thy sovereignty. I rejoice in the simple but sublime assurance "The Lord reigneth;"—that all events are in Thy hands. The sparrow's fall is watched by Thee; the raven's cry is heard by Thee; the hairs of our head are numbered by Thee. In Thy sight there is no such thing as great or small, — mighty and insignificant. Thou openest Thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. No mistake can occur in Thy dealings—no shortcoming in Thy wisdom—no failure in Thy power—no faltering in Thy faithfulness.

I rejoice especially to think, that Thou who art the Infinite Jehovah, art also

my Father; that with filial confidence and boldness I may come into Thy presence,—trust a Father's tenderness, and resign myself to a Father's will. I can look up, through Jesus Christ my adorable Saviour, and call Thee—the mightiest of all Beings—by Thy new best name of—Love.

Alas! Thou hast abundant reason to say, "If I have been a Father, where has been mine honour?" I have disowned and abused Thy paternal regard. I have not given Thee the trust of a loving heart—the obedience of a true life—the sacrifice of a broken and contrite spirit. Lord have mercy upon me! In penitence and contrition of soul may it be mine to say "I will arise and go to my Father." Heal my backslidings; receive me graciously and love me freely.

O Thou who alone dost work, and none can hinder it, may Thy grace bring me nearer, and keep me nearer Thee.

If Thou sendest prosperity, enable me to use Thy mercies with sobriety and thankfulness;—if Thou sendest adversity, may I glorify Thee when Thou smitest, as well as when Thou healest; when Thou takest, as well as when Thou givest; rejoicing to say regarding each and all of Thy dealings—"This also cometh from the Lord of Hosts, who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in working." Keep me from every base surrender to the power of temptation, the tyranny of self, the false maxims and principles of the world—the unruly forces of evil. In all duties give me Thy help—in all perplexities aid me with Thy counsel—in all perils grant me Thy protection. May it be the aim of my life to obey Thee, and the joy of my soul to please Thee. Make me kindly in thought and gentle in word, and generous in deed—not rendering evil for evil or railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing; seeking day by

day to attain a gradual conformity to the mind and image and will of the divine Redeemer.

Forgive, Lord, for the sake of Thy dear Son, whatever I have this day done amiss, that I may retire to rest at peace with Thee, and in good will towards all men. Bless my beloved friends; may they too be led to exult in Thy sovereignty—to rejoice that Thou appointest the bounds of their habitation, the length of their days, and the end of their days. Whatever be the period of existence Thou dost allot to them, may they be enabled faithfully to serve Thee. When the days of earth are finished, may they pass into Thy blessed presence; and there, united in those ties which survive the uncertain ones of earth, may we be served heirs together to the grace of eternal life; even to "length of days for ever and ever."

Great God of the afflicted, draw near *in infinite love* to all broken hearts.

Seated by the furnace, do Thou temper the fury of the flames. By the sustaining power of Thy grace and the comforting influences of Thy Holy Spirit, may trial be disarmed of its sting and the bread of affliction be turned into angels' food.

Pity a perishing world:—listen to the groanings and travailings of a creation cursed with sin and rivetted with the chains of corruption. Lord mitigate her sufferings—redress her cruel wrongs. Stay the outpouring of vials of judgment. Come, Prince of Peace, Lord and Giver of life, take to Thyself Thy great power and reign; and then shall the wilderness and the solitary place be made glad and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. Bless Thy church universal. Give efficacy to all instrumental means employed, alike for reclaiming the outcast and perishing, and for building up and stablishing Thy people in their most holy faith. Send

times of refreshing unto Zion. May the shower come down in its season, let there be showers of blessing. If Thy faithful servants hear not the fall of the rains—nor watch the distilling of the dew: if they see neither the fruit nor the flower; may they sow in faith, knowing that Thy word shall not return to Thee void—that it will accomplish that which Thou pleasest, and prosper in the thing whereto Thou had sent it.

Anew I commend myself to Thy guardianship and keeping. Give Thy good angels charge concerning me this night, that they may encamp round about me. When the Gates of the morning are again opened,—may it be mine to go forth to the varied duties and occupations of another day, in fresh dependence on Thy mercy and loving-kindness. And all that I ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO *INTO THEM*, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

4TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings."—Ps. xxxvi. 7.

Loving-kindness.

O GOD, whose nature and whose name is love—whose tender mercies are over all Thy works, draw near to me this morning and breathe upon me Thine own benediction. As I am seated once more at the Beautiful Gate of Thy Temple—may I put my trust under the shadow of Thy wings. The kindness of the kindest knows a limit: but Thy kindness knows no limit. Thou hast been gracious to me in the time that is past. Thy pillar of cloud has been with me by day, and Thy pillar of fire by night. In difficulty Thou hast directed me: in weakness Thou hast strengthened me. Thou hast delivered my soul *from* death, mine eyes from

tears, and my feet from falling:—giving me ever new causes for gratitude, and new material for praise. Even when the shadows of affliction have fallen around me, Thou hast mingled sweet drops in the cup, and enabled me to sing of mercy in the midst of judgment;—staying Thy rough wind in the day of Thine east wind. The retrospect of life is crowded with Ebenezers, testifying that "hitherto hath the Lord helped me."

O Thou "Sun of my soul," who art thus gladdening my existence from day to day, and who hast given me the mightiest proof and pledge of Thy loving-kindness in the gift of the Redeemer—do Thou enable me to trust Thee implicitly in the future, and to seek in all my ways to acknowledge Thee. My purposes and plans of life I commend to Thy better wisdom. May prosperity be hallowed, and adversity sweetened, *by seeing* Thee in everything and every-

thing in Thee.—May all the gifts of Thy bounty wear a new aspect, coming with the seal of Thy covenant love stamped upon them. May that love reign paramount and supreme. May it preside over all my motives—form them—rule them—regulate them.—May all good impulses be followed and pursued into vigorous action. May my heart be Thine, my life be Thine, my work be Thine. May a sense of Thy loving-kindness mould and influence my conduct towards those around me. Keep me from whatever would wrong another's feelings. Preserve me from a resentful spirit: from morbidly dwelling on injuries—from fretting and disquietude about imagined cares and evils. If the circumstances of my lot prevent me making any great or laborious efforts in Thy cause, may I remember that the lowliest service done for Thee will not be rejected or disowned. Give me a conscientious fidelity

over the few things—if Thou hast not made me steward over many things; and at last, through the merits and mediation of Thy dear Son, may an entrance be ministered to me into Thine eternal kingdom and glory.

I pray for my dear friends:—may they also know, in their happy experience, the excellence of Thy loving-kindness. May they give Thee, not the wrecks of a worn and withered love, but in all time of their wealth, as well as in all time of their tribulation, seek to live in Thy fear and favour.

O Thou who didst of old utter the merciful apology for human infirmity, "The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak"—draw near in infinite compassion to those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or estate. If Thy dealings are mysterious,—as those who know Thy loving-kindness, may they put their trust not only under the brightness but under

the shadow of Thy wings. In darkness, as well as in sunshine, may they glorify Thy holy name; and regard all as a needful discipline and training. If portionless and friendless here—may they be led nearer Thyself the everlasting Friend and Portion. Let despairing guilt and trembling penitence find refuge at the feet of the Great Physician. May the balsam distilled from the Tree of Life heal their soul troubles. If the kindness of man be denied them—Lord may they know the "excellence" of Thine.

Promote every effort for the extension of Thy Son's kingdom. May Thy churches fulfil their responsibilities to those still sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, in a spirit of faith and prayer, undeterred by difficulties, unbaffled by discouragements. If the furrows in many places be inviting the immortal seed, do Thou send forth faithful labourers,—men inspired with a

passionate devotion to Thee and Thy cause, a self-sacrificing enthusiasm for Christ, and for the salvation of the world He died to redeem. May they be cheered with the promise, "In due season ye shall reap, if ye faint not."

Anew, I commend myself, soul and body, to Thy Fatherly keeping. Assist me in all my duties. Stand by me—protect me—shield me—strengthen me. Preserve me in Thy faith, fear, and love, all the day long. If temptation in any shape cross my path, by the help of Thy grace may I resist it. Dwelling in the secret place of the most High, may I abide under the shadow of the Almighty. And all I ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

4TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"The Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."—ROM. viii. 26.

The Holy Spirit.

O GOD, I desire to come through the opened Gates of Prayer, to the footstool of Thy Throne, thanking Thee for all the mercies of the by-past day. Spirit of light and love! Thou who makest intercession in behalf of the church and of every individual believer, with groanings which cannot be uttered;—Thou who feedest the lamp of devotion with the oil of Thy grace;—do Thou replenish my vessel this night, as I venture into the presence of the Holy One. Put earnest desires into my heart,—enabling me to hunger for the bread which endureth to everlasting life. Let me rest on the sure encouragement given by lips which cannot lie—"If ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your

children, how much more will your Father which is in heaven, give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him."

Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before Thee, and am no more worthy to be called Thy child. Times and days and ways without number, I have grieved Thy good and gracious Spirit. I have too often done what might have quenched the light of His presence—thwarted the drawings of his love—and hushed the voice and remonstrances of conscience. I have too often permitted my heart to be the home of impure thoughts and vain imaginations. I have sought to invent unworthy apologies and extenuations for my guilt, or attempted to consign to oblivion what cannot be forgotten by Thee, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid. Enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no flesh living be justified. Come,

Spirit of the living God, as an Enlightener, dispersing my darkness—rebuking my unbelief. Come, as a Sanctifier, expelling the power and the love of sin. Come, as a Comforter—easing my doubts and unloading my burdens. Come, above all, as the Glorifier of Jesus:—receive of His, and show it unto me.—Come, with new pledges and tokens of Redeeming love and mercy:—Come, as the Spirit of adoption, enabling me with filial trust and confidence to cry "Abba! Father!" Come, in all the plenitude of Thy gifts and graces, and breathe upon me and say "Receive ye the Holy Ghost!" Under a sense of my own weakness and insufficiency, I would resign myself to Thy gracious influences. Write Thine own superscription on my heart "Holiness unto the Lord." By Thy indwelling power, subdue my corruptions—stimulate my graces. Let me not remain fruitless amid the quickening means of grace. Faithful to

whatever duties may be allotted to me in my earthly sphere, may I be fitted and prepared, by Thy guidance and discipline, for the higher services of eternity, and for entering on the fulfilment and enjoyment of the lofty beatitude "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." Thus building up myself on the faith and promises of the Gospel, "praying in the Holy Ghost," may I keep myself in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Bless Thy church everywhere. Open the windows of heaven and refresh Thine heritage when it is weary. Let the Divine Spirit come down like rain upon the mown grass and as showers that water the earth. Let no part of the fleece be dry. The Spirit of the Lord is not straitened. "Awake O north wind, come thou south, blow upon Thy garden, that the spices thereof may flow out;—that our Beloved may

come into his garden and eat his pleasant fruits."

To the same gracious keeping and protection, I commend all near and dear to me. Cause them to lie down in the green pastures, lead them beside the still waters. Restore their souls, and lead them in the paths of righteousness for Thine own name's sake. May all in sorrow have their sorrows sanctified. May they, lovingly and without a murmur, accept every cross, knowing that all rebukes as well as blessings emanate from Thee. May Thy Providences prove heart-searchers, strengthening the things that remain, which might have been otherwise ready to die. Thus may the shadow of death be turned into the morning;—and the trial of faith, being much more precious than of gold which perisheth, though it be tried with fire, be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

Anew I supplicate forgiveness for

the sins of the past day.—Anew I would wash in the opened fountain, and plead the name which is above every name. Be Thou my guardian through the silent watches of another night.—Abide with me, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.—As Thou hast permitted me once more to erect my altar and to offer this my evening oblation,—do Thou spare me also, in health and strength again to see the light of a new day, and to rise fitted and prepared for its varied duties.

I ask these and all other needed blessings, for the sake of Him whom Thou hearest always; who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever liveth and reigneth, one God; world without end. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

5TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."—Ps. xxvii. 14.

Waiting. HEAVENLY FATHER, I desire to come into Thy presence thanking and praising Thee for Thy great goodness. Let me 'shake off dull sloth;' and in the name and merits of Thy dear Son, lay upon Thy holy altar an acceptable sacrifice. Glory to God who hath watched over my pillow and permitted me to rise in safety. May this be an emblem of that better waking in the morning of immortality, when I shall see Thy face, and be called to partake of endless life. The Lord is good to them that wait for Him—unto the soul that seeketh Him. Waiting on Thee now without distraction, may I receive strength and courage for all the duties of a *new* day. I would confide

to Thine ear every want, every care, every sorrow, every cross. May this be my prayer and my resolve, as the Gates of another morning are opened—"My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from Him."

What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits towards me? Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Enable me ever to link true happiness and enjoyment with Thy favour. May I know more and more Thy service to be self-rewarding and self-recompensing. There be many that say, Who will show us any good? Lord lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon me!

But, alas! I do not thus at all times wait upon Thee in simplicity of faith and with unwavering reliance. My fitful affections have too often been deviating from their all-glorious Centre. I have *allowed* myself to be cumbered with

much serving;—a slave to needless anxieties and distractions;—distrustful of Thy providence;—sometimes, it may be, impeaching Thy wisdom and faithfulness—questioning the rectitude of Thy dispensations, and tempted to look to second causes rather than to Thee the First Great Cause. I have not been at all times willing to accept this as the Sovereign reason and explanation of Thy dealings "This also cometh from the Lord of Hosts, who is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working." O Thou who keepest covenant with them that seek Thee, do Thou increase my faith. Confirm my wavering resolutions. Waiting upon Thee afresh, may I renew my strength, and mount up as on eagles' wings. Give me the heart to love and the resolution to do. In all my worldly duties and engagements, may I have no aims but what Thou wilt approve, and no ends but what Thou wilt bless.

May Thy Word, with its precious lessons and elevating motives, be inweaved into my daily life, leading me to perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord. Inspire me with devout acquiescence in Thy will, knowing that whatever Thou appointest must be for the best. Keep me from presaging and forecasting evil. Preserve me from peevishness and fretfulness—from petulance of temper and hastiness of speech, —from covetousness and selfishness. May I take the golden rule as my guide in all transactions this day and every day—"Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so unto them." Whatever be the talent Thou hast entrusted to me, may it be laid out for Thee, and may I seek to gain by it a revenue for Thy glory. As a faithful steward in my Lord's household may I be diligent, that I may be found of Him at last in peace, without spot and blameless.

O Thou God of all the families of mankind, may Thy way be known upon the earth, Thy saving health among all nations. Bless the land of our nativity. Protect and perpetuate its civil and religious privileges. May it be more and more a centre of holy influences radiating to earth's circumference. May its rulers be increasingly inspired with that fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom, and be guided by that righteousness which alone exalteth.

Bless my beloved friends wherever they are. Unite them to Thee in those covenant ties which will survive the uncertain ones of earth. May they be Thine now, and Thine on the day when Thou makest up Thy jewels.

May the sick and the suffering "wait on the Lord." Strengthen such as be on beds of languishing: make all their bed in their sickness. May the bereaved "wait on the Lord" —

trusting Thee in the dark, and adoring Thy name alike in giving and in taking. May the dying "wait on the Lord." Calm the waves of ebbing life. Turn the shadow of death into the morning. May the gates of death prove the portals leading into everlasting day.

Prepare me, gracious God, for my own final hour of weakness and suffering, by consecrating the season of health and strength to Thee; that so, when called to surrender my earthly trust, I may be able in calm confidence to say, "I have waited for Thy salvation, O Lord."

I would retire to rest this night, at peace with Thee. Grant me refreshing sleep, even the sleep of Thy beloved, and spare me if it be Thy will to see the light, and to enjoy the comforts of a new day. Through Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"'OPEN UNTO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO *INTO THEM*, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

5TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."—GAL. vi. 14.

The Cross of Christ.

O GOD, I desire to approach the throne of the heavenly grace, rejoicing in Thee as a kind and beneficent Father. Thy mercy is infinite—unchanging—everlasting. Enable me with childlike trust and confidence to bow at Thy footstool. With joy, this evening, may I "go down with Thy people to the Gates," and draw water out the wells of salvation.

Lord, I come, owning my great unworthiness. How weak has been my faith! how languid and fitful my best efforts to serve Thee! In prosperity I have too often disowned Thee; in adversity I have been tempted to entertain hard thoughts of Thee; in the

world I have too often forgotten Thee. My own heart condemns me, and Thou art greater than my heart—Thou knowest all things.

I come with my poverty and helplessness, my doubts and conflicts, my foes and fears, my difficulties and perplexities, my sorrows and my sins. I would lay the heavy burden of them all, at the foot of the Redeemer's cross. In that cross alone I would glory. I look away from myself to His completed work. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Seal to me the blessed assurance of pardon and peace and eternal life. From Him who bled for me as an atoning sacrifice, may I receive a passport now into the privileges of the Heavenly Kingdom; and from the same gracious lips, may I at last listen to the welcome, "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Meanwhile, may I aim at advance-

ment in the divine life. Let me make no truce with whatever is at enmity with Thee. Enable me in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth to cast out every demon-sin. May His cross exercise upon me a constraining power; teaching me thus to judge, that if one died for all, then all were dead;—and in that He died, He died that they who live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him who died for them, and rose again. May I seek henceforth, that my heart may be a holy altar and my life a living sacrifice. Let me be vigilant and circumspect in my daily duties. Set a watch before my mouth, keep the door of my lips. Deliver me from the trouble and disquietude and shame which follow every deflection from the path of rectitude; from being arrogant, or discontented, uncharitable, or time-serving;—from being tempted to stoop to base compliances and unworthy equivocations.

May a sense of Thy presence dominate all my actions; and a holy fear of offending so kind and loving a God, repress every unholy thought and tendency. May it be my greatest pain to grieve Thee, and my greatest delight to do Thy will—whether by active duty or by passive suffering. May I feel that in common with all Thy people I have some sphere allotted to me;—some niche to occupy in Thy temple, whether it be by working or by waiting. Following the footsteps of the Redeemer with cheerful alacrity, may I know that even the taking up of the cross, when this is required, is its own reward,—that they have cause to rejoice who are honoured thus to be partakers with Him in His sufferings, that when He shall be revealed, they may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Bless my beloved friends. Bring them individually to know Christ crucified as the power of God unto salva-

tion, and to realise, above all other things, the truth of the words, "The Redemption of the soul is precious."

Hasten the time when the year of Thy Redeemed shall come; when the "many crowns" shall be set on Messiah's brow, and by the attractive power of His cross all men shall be drawn unto Him. Prosper the work of Thy ministering and missionary servants:—may they be faithful and loyal to their divine commission and to their adorable Master; hiding themselves, and glorifying Him:—losing themselves, as they proclaim their great message—"Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."

Bless all in sorrow.—May they, too, be led meekly to bear their cross, remembering all their dear Lord so patiently and willingly endured for them. May they see the heavenly mansions shining through the mists of the

Valley; and hear the divine voice declaring, "the days of your mourning shall be ended."

Lord be Thou my watchful Keeper through the silence and darkness of another night. Guard me from unquiet dreams:—vouchsafe me peaceful rest:—spare me, if it be Thy will, to see the light and to enjoy the comforts of a new day:—and grant, that during all the period of my allotted time on earth, whether I wake or sleep I may live together with Thee. And all I ask or hope for, is in the name, and for the sake, of Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

6TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Be careful for nothing: but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God."—Phil. iv. 6.

Supplication with Thanksgiving.

O GOD, I desire on this new day, in accordance with Thine own gracious invitation, to make my requests known unto Thee. Blessed Redeemer, Thou who art the True Aaron, the Great Angel Intercessor, Thou who art ever pleading in love and never pleading in vain, do Thou come forth from the Holiest of all, to the multitudes of Thy waiting people, assembled this morning at the Gateway of Prayer, and bless them with peace. Breathe upon us and say, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost."

The retrospect of the past is a retrospect of love;—mercy upon mercy—privilege upon privilege. For all Thy

providential goodness, Lord, I praise Thee. For health and strength, for friends and home; for powers of body and faculties of mind; for my religious privileges, for all appointed means of grace, for the glorious hope of immortality; for peace amid the manifold changes of life; for comfort in sorrow; for the assurance of victory over death —the last enemy—Lord, I praise Thee. I have to acknowledge my many and multiplied offences;—that in thought and word and deed I have transgressed against Thee, O Thou Preserver and Redeemer of men. I have too often sought for happiness in objects and pursuits which fail to satisfy the yearnings of the immortal spirit. I have too often indulged in feelings and tempers inconsistent with my Christian profession—unworthy of the love I owe to Thee my God, and the good-will and generosity and forbearance I owe to my fellow-men. Lord, have mercy

upon me! Save me from the sins which do most easily beset me. From the love of the world which alienates my affections from heavenly realities; —from the love of self which interferes with the entire consecration of the heart to Christ;—from the covetousness which hardens—from the impurity which debases and enslaves—from every evil lust and passion and temper—good Lord, deliver me! Conscious of my own utter weakness, I would look for the supplies of Thy promised grace. By it alone I stand. If I am enabled this day to resist temptation, it is all Thy doing. It is Thou who upholdest me by Thy right hand. Under the realised consciousness of Thy sustaining presence, may I be careful for nothing;—committing the unknown future to Thy wise and better keeping. Burdened with no perplexing or disquieting thoughts, but rolling every such burden and anxiety on Him who

careth for me, may the peace of God which passeth all understanding keep my heart. With my feet on the unchanging Rock of Ages, I will rejoice, amid all trials and vicissitudes, that nothing is able to separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, my Lord.

Let Thy good and gracious hand be specially around me to-day. Strengthen me for the discharge of every duty, whether at home or in the world. Prepare me for the resisting of every temptation and for the endurance of every trial. Whatever be the talent Thou hast committed to me,—whether position, or intellect, or worldly substance,—may I feel the sacredness of the trust, and seek thankfully to employ it for the good of others, and for the glory of Thee, my God. Enable me to aim at that high standard of Christian responsibility, which regards all possessions valuable, only so far as they contribute to show forth the praises of

Him who hath called us out of darkness into marvellous light. Living under the habitual impression that soon—very soon—that committed trust may be recalled, oh, give me grace to fulfil the part of a faithful steward.

Compassionate those who are in trial. Listen to the loud wail of humanity; especially to that rising from the members of the household of faith. Blessed Redeemer, it is our comfort to know, that wide as the family of the afflicted is, Thou canst say regarding every diversity of case and experience, "I know their sorrows." May Thy suffering people be brought into nearer relationship and fellowship with Thee. Amid the mystery of present baffling dispensations, may they look forward to that day, when, in the light of eternity, they shall listen to the repetition of Thine own saying—"Said I not unto thee that if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?"

Let the cause of truth triumph over the pride and superstition and will-worship of man. Hasten the time when earth shall become one consecrated temple;—every heart an altar—every life a sacrifice—every tongue praise. Human power is impotent to break the chains of sin and Satan. But the wisdom of God is wiser than man, and the weakness of God is stronger than man. It is not by human might nor by human power, but by Thy Spirit, Lord God of Hosts.

Anew I commend myself to Thee. May the love of God the Father animate me: may the grace of God the Son sustain me: may the fellowship of God the Holy Spirit quicken and sanctify me. Thou blessed Three in one! make me meet now and evermore, for the inheritance of the saints in light. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

6TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Although thou sayest thou shalt not see him, yet judgment is before him; therefore trust thou in him."—Job xxxv. 14.

The Unseen Trusted.

O GOD, I bless and praise Thy holy name, that I am again permitted to hold fellowship and communion with Thee the Father of spirits. I might, like others this night, have been summoned to the Gate of death; but I am once more privileged to be a suppliant at the Gate leading to the mercy-seat, with the golden key in my hand, and the assurance that a God of mercy is waiting to be gracious.

I desire to bless Thee for Thy constant, unwearied kindness. I would seek to extract motive for gratitude from every varied token and tribute of Thy love. I bless Thee for exemption from danger and accident, from pain

and sickness and disease. I bless Thee for health and strength; for manifold outer comforts and domestic enjoyments. Above all do I bless Thee for the good hope through grace—the hope full of immortality—which Thou hast given me in Thy beloved Son; and that, with the Greater Gift, Thou wilt freely bestow all things needful, alike for my present peace and my eternal well-being. O Saviour God, who hast redeemed me with Thy most precious blood, to whom can I go but unto Thee? I am persuaded Thou art able to keep that which I have committed unto Thee. I bless Thee that, as the Son of man, Thou didst come to seek and save them that are lost: as the Good Shepherd who gave his own life for the sheep,—the weakest, the weariest, the most burdened of the flock can claim Thy regard. Thou markest out our pasture for us. Thou knowest Thy sheep by name and leadest them out. If at times I am unable to

understand the mystery of Thy dealings, —if at times Thou leadest along the thorny path—teaching by crossed purposes and baffled and thwarted expectations—may it be mine to confide in Thine unerring wisdom. Knowing that "judgment is before Thee," may I implicitly trust Thy faithfulness; glorifying Thy holy name by unquestioning submission, saying "Lord, here am I;—do *to* me, and *with* me, as seemeth best in Thy sight."—"Though Thou slay me, yet will I trust in Thee." Strong in Thy grace, may I strive to live under the sovereignty of that loftiest motive,—that whatever pleases Thee shall please me; that whatever be Thy holy will shall be mine. If the path of prosperity should be chequered,—if human props fail, and human refuges reveal themselves to be refuges of lies;—if worldly substance be impaired, or earthly love die;—may the perishable and corruptible only drive me nearer to the incorruptible,

—to seek closer and more intimate fellowship with Him in whose presence there is fulness of joy. Thus, trusting Thee and loving Thee, let me rise superior to all that is fleeting and fluctuating around. In quietness and confidence let my strength be. Keep me from moping over fancied ills, or brooding morbidly over disappointments. Let me feel that, had it been well for me, my desires would have been gratified; but in Thy better wisdom Thou hast denied what, if granted, might have proved detrimental to my soul's interests. Preserve me from all pride and vainglory: make me charitable and forgiving—kind and unselfish—cheerful and thankful. Give me that lowliness of mind which leads me to esteem others better than myself. O that each member of Thy family who bears the name of Christian, could more heartily make the avowal—"None of us liveth to himself."

Bless, Lord, all the children of sorrow. Some of these may be experiencing overwhelming afflictions. There may seem to them no ray in the darkness—no silver lining in the looming cloud. Set Thou Thine own bow in it. Enable them to rejoice even under the *shadow* of Thy wings, and to sing their "song in the night." May they, too, implicitly trust Thee, that Thou wilt impose no needless burden;—that all Thy dealings are interlaced and interweaved with mercy—that judgment (wise and righteous judgment) is before Thee. May their trials yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

Bless Thy church everywhere. Prosper her in all her undertakings for the good of man and for Thy glory. Bless Thy ministering servants: make them polished shafts in their Master's quiver;—honoured instruments in turning many from darkness to light. Endow them with spiritual energy, zeal, and

fortitude, in days of coldness and lukewarmness, apathy and apostasy. May all Thy churches, walking in the fear of God and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, everywhere be multiplied.

And now, Lord, what wait I for?—my hope is in Thee! Pardon whatever I have this day thought amiss, and said amiss, and done amiss:—all commissions of sin, all omissions of duty. Abide with me for it is toward evening and the day is far spent; and when the day of life is spent, and the last shadows have fallen, may it only be to welcome in "the morning without clouds," and to enjoy for ever the brightness of Thy presence and the plenitude of Thy love. And all I ask is for Jesus' sake, AMEN.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD!"

7TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name."—MATT. vi. 9.

Our Father. O LORD, God Almighty, the God of my life and the length of my days, I come to Thee this morning, seeking to realise Thee in Thy paternal character. I bless Thee if I am able to utter that gospel word —that gospel name—"My Father;" if I am able to feel that the Gates of prayer are the gates leading to a Father's house, a Father's presence and love. I bless Thee that I have the warrant of Thine adorable Son in appropriating the words "My Father and your Father, my God and your God;" that I have His own encouraging assurance "If ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to them that

ask Him." I would avail myself of the privilege. I would bring all my wants and sins, my difficulties and trials and perplexities, and pour them into the loving ear of a most loving Parent. Deliver me from bondage-worship and bondage-fear, and enable me with the sweet confidence of Thy children to say "Abba! Father."

Lord, how unworthy have I proved myself of this holy relationship. If Thou hast been a Father, where has been Thine honour? If Thou hast been a Master, where has been Thy fear? Thus unfaithful and unfilial, Thou mightest justly have disowned and disinherited me;—left me an alien and an outcast from Thy presence, and refused for ever to "set me among the children." But adored be Thy name, O Thou Father-God, that in the midst of deserved wrath, Thou hast remembered and art still remembering, mercy. *Thy hand* of love and forgiveness and

pity is stretched out still. Thy paternal voice is still heard, "Return, ye backsliding children." Although often, by reason of my own truant wanderings, I have been ready to perish for hunger, there is bread enough still in my Father's house and to spare. Lord, evermore, and more and more, give me this bread of life! Graciously forgive and forget the past, and arm me with Thy grace for the future. Give me childlike repentance—childlike faith, childlike obedience. Enable me to lean with calm trustfulness on Thee. Prevent me from inflicting any wound on my own conscience that would alienate me from Thy favour. Keep me from living as if this world were my final rest, and home, and portion. May I seek, rather, to live from day to day as one whose true home is above,—as if on the threshold of the Father's house with its many mansions, and ready for the summons "Come up hither."

As a child, may I be jealous of Thine honour. May I seek to make manifest the reality of my filial relationship, by meekness and gentleness, by obedience and love. Give me that charity which is the bond of perfectness. Put a sanctified restraint on my thoughts. Preserve me from uttering unkind words, or entertaining ungenerous suspicions. May I seek to hold the character and reputation of others, sacred as my own.

O Thou who dost compassionate, even "like as a father pitieth his children," do Thou pity and commiserate all the members of suffering humanity, especially those who are of the household of faith. Lord, there are many sorrows no human sympathy can reach. There is nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. But Thou canst gauge the depth of all. Impart to Thy tried children, everlasting consolation and good hope through grace. Let them *trust a Fa*ther's love, a Father's hand,

a Father's heart, a Father's rod; regarding Thy dealings as needful discipline; and honouring Thee by simple, confiding, unreserved submission. Prepare the dying for death. If it be Thy holy will, bring back the shadow on life's dial, and utter the word "Thou shalt live and not die."

Bless all my beloved friends near or at a distance. Let them, too, become Thine own children by adoption,—exulting in the fulness and beneficence of Thy paternal love;—listening to Thy voice amid all the changes of this changeful scene, "I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters."

Prosper every missionary effort. Blessed be Thy name, the day has come, when "neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, do men worship the Father;" but that gracious Fatherhood extends to every region and every tongue. Give to all nations peace and concord,

that the furrows of the earth may be prepared for the insertion of the divine seed. Let Thy ministers be diligent sowers and abundant reapers: baptize them with the Holy Ghost and with fire. Give greater unity of effort in Thy cause. May this be, more and more, the motto and watchword of all Christians and all Churches "Doubtless Thou art our Father."

Be Thou with me throughout this day. As the Gates of the morning are now opening, may I realise Thy blessing, and carry it along with me into all my duties. Hear me, Gracious Father, for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

7TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever."—HEB. xiii. 8.

An Immutable Saviour.

O GOD, who hast again brought me in peace and safety to the close of another day, I bow my knees this night at the throne of the heavenly grace; beseeching Thee, ere I retire to rest, to vouchsafe me Thy blessing. It is in the name of Him who holds in His hand the Key and the Gates of Prayer —who openeth and no man shutteth —that I can alone venture to come into Thy presence. I rejoice to think that He has wrought out and brought in an everlasting righteousness;—that He has thrown the lustre of a sublime vindication over every requirement of Thy law. I rejoice especially in His unchanging faithfulness. While recalling, with devout gratitude and thankfulness,

all He did and taught and suffered on earth; how oftentimes He delighted to minister to the sick, and succour the tempted, and heal the broken-hearted, and offer peace and rest to the weary and heavy laden,—it is my comfort to feel assured, that, though now exalted at Thy right hand, He still retains, in His glorified humanity, the unchanged human heart with its yearning love and sympathies; that, amid all other vicissitudes, there is "no variableness, neither shadow of turning," in Him. His name and memorial continues to this hour what it was, when He trod, a Pilgrim wanderer, this valley of tears—"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and for ever."

O God, ere the Gates of another evening be closed, and I again lie down to sleep, grant me the forgiveness of all the day's sins, of thought, word, and deed—of omission and commission. *Blot them* out of the book of Thy re-

membrance; sprinkle anew the lintels and door-posts of my heart with the covenant token; hide me anew in the clefts of the Smitten Rock; seal to me anew the blessed sense of reconciliation through the blood of the cross. And while I look to this immutable Saviour —this Rock of Ages—for pardon and peace, give me grace that I may be more and more assimilated to His holy image, and more and more moulded in conformity to His holy will. Impart to me His meekness, His humility, His gentleness, His forgiveness of injuries, His tender consideration for others; that patience under provocation which made Him stand as a Lamb dumb before His shearers; who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered He threatened not, but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously. Make me more lowly and loving—more resigned and submissive. May I live under the power of renewed affections.

Influenced and guided by lofty principle, may my eye be single, that my whole body may be full of light. Raise me above all fretting cares and timid fears, above all morbid anxieties and solicitudes about trifles. Let me have the fear of God and no other fear. When heart and flesh faint and fail, may I triumph in the immutability of Him who has promised to be the strength of His people's heart, and their portion for ever.

Extend Thy cause and kingdom everywhere. How long shall the wicked triumph? save Thy people, bless Thine inheritance; feed them also, and lift them up for ever. I would rejoice in the thought, that Thy gospel is the power of God unto salvation;—that as such, under its blessed instrumentality, every mountain of unbelief and error will in due time become a plain before the true Zerubbabel. Do Thou demonstrate now, as in the previous history of

Thy Church, that it is not the vaunted armour of earth's great ones, but the sling of faith and the few pebbles from the running brook of truth, which will conquer the world's unbelief. Bring in Thine ancient people with the fulness of the Gentile nations. Have respect unto Thy covenant;—the oath which Thou didst swear unto Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. Arise, O Lord, and plead Thine own cause.

Bless all related to me by ties of kindred or affection. The Lord watch between us when we are absent one from another. May they be among the beloved of the Lord who dwell safely:—may the joy of the Lord be their strength.

Compassionate the case of poor afflicted ones. When their hearts are overwhelmed, O unchanging Saviour-God, lead them to Thyself—the Rock that is higher than they. Whatever be the cause of their trials, may they be en-

abled, in unmurmuring, uncomplaining submission to say, "Even so, Father!" In the midst of impaired health, and thwarted schemes, and disappointed hopes, and broken hearts, and voices hushed in death, may it be theirs exultingly to exclaim, as they look to One who survives all blanks and losses, "They shall perish, but *Thou* remainest; as a vesture shalt Thou fold them up, and they shall be changed; but THOU art the same, and Thy years shall not fail."

These, and every needed blessing, for myself and for others, I ask in the name of Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

8TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock."—Ps. xxvii. 5.

The Hiding-Place.

O GOD, who art the refuge of all that seek Thee, may I know this day the blessedness of those who dwell in the secret place of the Most High, and who abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I rejoice that I am never a solitary moment away from Thy guardianship and care;—that Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. Amid all changes Thou art the abiding One. The world's joys are shadowy and fleeting: they mock the hand that grasps them: the world's refuges are refuges of lies. But in the pavilion of Thy love I am ever safe and secure. Hide me there until earth's calamities be overpast. I adore

Thee as the Supreme Disposer of all events. Thy purposes no accident can change—Thy faithfulness no time can impair—Thy counsels no created being can question or resist. Blessings and trials, comforts and crosses, come alike from Thee. Thou sendest the gourd; Thou sendest the worm. Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? I adore Thee especially as the God of Salvation, and praise Thee for the riches of Thy sovereign grace in Jesus.

I acknowledge my great unworthiness. I have to mourn the constant cleaving of defilement to my nature; that while earnest in the pursuit of earthly things, I am prone to languish and grow weary in the things of God; that while I would do good, evil is present with me. In the season of prosperity, when receiving manifold gifts at Thy hands, I have been too ready to forget the gracious Giver. In the hour of adversity, or even amid the fretting

anxieties, and troubles, and solicitudes of life, though Thou hast invited me to the secret of Thy tabernacle, there to unburden my wants, and sorrows, and perplexities, I have too often fled to other solaces, and put my confidence in unworthy supports, or else given way to murmuring and repining under Thy righteous chastisements. Lord hide me alone in the clefts of the Rock of Ages! In the finished work and glorious righteousness and exalted sympathy of the God-man Mediator, may I find the shelter I need;—a free and secure refuge from the storm, and covert from the tempest. Everywhere else in danger and trouble, may I feel that there I am safe. If sin has alienated me from that service in which I once delighted;—if my love has been waxing cold—my affections becoming lukewarm and dead, revive and quicken me. Strengthen the things that remain which are ready to die. Return, O Holy Dove—blessed

Spirit,—Thou Messenger of peace and rest!—enable me to hate the sin, whatever it be, which led me to forfeit the comforting sense of Thy presence. Come, breathe upon the dry bones that they may live.

I know not what temptations I may be called to-day to encounter;—temptations in business, in the family—in the world. In every trouble, whatsoever it may be, O fulfil Thine own promise, and hide me in the secret of Thy pavilion. Keep me from evil thoughts, evil wishes, vain imaginations. May the influence of the truth as it is in Jesus, mould and renew, control and elevate my whole being. Loving Thee, my God, may that love embrace all mankind. Give me that charity which is the bond of perfectness. Preserve me from the indulgence of implacable and malevolent feelings—the retaliation of wrong—the *resenting* of injuries; from all that

would promote my own advantage at the expense or by the injury of others. Keep me from covetousness, from inordinate craving for mere material good,—and make me more solicitous about the one thing needful—the only enduring riches of eternity: thankful for the many blessings of the present life, and seeking gratefully to enjoy them—yet living in the habitual anticipation of the Lord's second coming, —"that blessed hope"—which, like a rainbow of promise, spans the sky of the future. May I be looking for it—preparing for it—longing for it—living for it. The Lord grant unto me that I may find mercy of the Lord on that day!

Bless my dear friends. May each one of them, too, have their feet planted on the Rock which cannot be shaken. May ties, at best precarious on earth, be rendered indissoluble by grace. I pray for all sufferers. In

the time of their sore trouble do Thou hide them specially in Thy pavilion, and as the beloved of the Lord—who have the covenant mark upon them, may they there dwell safely.

Have compassion on a world lying in wickedness. May abundant showers of blessing descend on those vast tracts of heathendom wherein Thy faithful missionary servants are labouring. May they see the pleasure of the Lord prospering in their hands.

I anew commend myself to Thy gracious care and keeping. Be Thou this day my shield, my glory, and the lifter up of my head; and when all my work on earth is accomplished, in Thine own good time do Thou receive me to Thyself, and number me with Thy ransomed Church in glory everlasting. Through Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO *INTO THEM*, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

8TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."—Ps. xxiii. 4.

Comfort in Death.

I COME to Thee, Blessed Lord, this evening, thanking Thee for all Thy mercies. How manifold have been the proofs and tokens of Thy kindness and faithfulness! The past has been paved with love. There is no friend in the world who has been like Thee, and none so willing to befriend me. Thou hast prevented me with the blessings of Thy goodness. While others have been laid on beds of sickness or cut down by sudden death, I am still among the living to praise Thee. Above all, Thou hast bestowed upon me the Gift of gifts—that Gift which in magnitude and preciousness dwarfs and absorbs all others. Thanks

be unto God for his unspeakable Gift! Life may well be a perpetual hymn of gratitude for all these Thine unmerited mercies, alike temporal and spiritual. I am unworthy of the least of them. It is to Thy free Sovereign abounding Grace I owe them all. Not unto me O Lord, not unto me, but unto Thy name I would give glory for Thy mercy and for Thy truth's sake.

While grateful for countless present blessings—Oh, prepare me for that solemn time, when they shall come, every one of them, to be renounced;—when the trust of existence must be surrendered to Thee, the Great Being who conferred it. I bless thee for Him who hath abolished death and hath brought life and immortality to light. In His cross, the last Enemy has been robbed of its sting and the grave of its victory. With that cross in view, may I see the Dark Valley *flooded* with celestial radiance;—the

gate of the grave and the gate of heaven become one. May I see in death, the birthday of a new being, in glory everlasting.

Lord, enable me habitually to bear about with me the solemnising truth—that "as men live so do men die;"—that as death leaves us, so will judgment and eternity find us. May it be mine to have the girded loins, and the burning lamp, and the ever-vigilant watchfulness;—that when my Lord cometh, I may be among the waiting servants who are ready to open unto Him immediately. Let Thy love, meanwhile, form the animating motive and principle in all I do. May I be dying daily to self and to sin. May I live now as I would wish I had been living when the time of my departure is at hand,—leaving nothing for these closing moments. May the best of life—not its dregs, be given to Thee. Whether I live may I live unto the

Lord, or whether I die may I die unto the Lord: whether therefore I live or die, Lord, may I be Thine. That so, whatever be the term of existence apportioned to me here, I may at last be ushered into the enjoyment of Thy presence, and into the possession of length of days for ever and ever.

Look down in compassion on the whole human race. May the time be hastened when from every nation of the earth the cry shall arise, "Alleluia! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! The kingdoms of this world are become the one kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ."

I pray for all upon whom the hand of sorrow is laid. May those racked with suffering and disease, who are saying in the morning "Would God it were evening," and in the evening "Would God it were morning," look forward to that glorious time when *there* shall be no more pain; and to

that glorious place "where the inhabitant shall no more say, I am sick." May all who have been called to witness the shadows of death gathering around those they love, rejoice that in Jesus the substance of death has been taken away;—that to depart and to be with Him, is indeed far better. May those now entering the final conflict gird themselves with the plighted promise of the great Vanquisher—"Fear not; I am he that liveth and was dead; and behold I am alive for evermore, and have the keys of the grave and of death." Commending them to the hand of a sustaining God and supporting Saviour, may they have nothing to do but to die. May angels be waiting to carry their spirits into the Redeemer's bosom.

Meanwhile, good Lord, be Thou my Shepherd and I shall want nothing. Make me to lie down in the green pastures — lead me beside the still

waters. Whatever be Thy dealings, may these result only in restoring my soul, and leading me in the paths of righteousness. And then, when I come to walk through the Dark Valley, I shall fear no evil—for Thou art with me supporting me with the rod and staff of Thy comforting promises. May goodness and mercy, like two guardian angels, follow me all the days of my life; and may my dwelling be in the house of the Lord for ever.

These, and all other needful blessings for myself and for others, I supplicate in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ—my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

9TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."—1 TIM. i. 15.

The Faithful Saying.

HEAVENLY FATHER, Almighty and Everlasting God, I approach Thy gracious presence, thanking Thee for the mercies of the by-past night and the renewed comforts of another day. O Thou who hast anew opened the Gates of the morning,—who didst command the light to shine out of darkness, do Thou shine into my heart. May no "earthborn-cloud arise," to intercept the light of Thy countenance. May the morning radiance without, be to me the emblem of that inner sunshine with which Thou visitest the souls of Thy people.

I come rejoicing in Thee as my Creator, Preserver, and bountiful Bene-

factor. Thou hast never left Thyself without a witness in that Thou art continually doing me good. I have no memories but of Thine unceasing care and kindness,—Thine unvarying paternal love. I come rejoicing in Thee especially as the God of Salvation; exulting anew in "the faithful saying" which is as faithful as ever, and as worthy of all acceptation as ever, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. Lord, I have to mourn my constant proneness to depart from Thee—the instability of my best resolutions—the fitfulness of my best frames and feelings—the sordidness of my best motives. I confess, without reservation, my heart-sins, lip-sins, life-sins;—omitted duties—abused mercies—unsanctified warnings;—love of the world—love of ease—love of self;—taking Thy gifts and forgetting the Giver;—seeing my brother have need, and shutting up my bowels of compas-

sion. Blessed Saviour, ever living—ever loving,—Thou Son of Man who didst come to seek and to save that which is lost,—who dost, through Thy precious sacrifice, cover all claims and cancel all debts—do Thou have mercy upon me. I confide in Thine infinite power and wisdom. There is a potency in Thy name to soothe every fear and to hush every sorrow. Say in the might of Thy mingled omnipotence and love—"Your sins are all forgiven you." I cast myself on Thee, alike for time and in eternity. In life, may I feel the power of Thy sustaining grace; in trouble, the support of Thy tender consolations; and in death the all-sufficiency of Thine exceeding great and precious promises.

Keep me this day, in my worldly business and avocations, from whatever would be injurious to my spiritual interests, or that would soil and blemish my Christian character. I

know not into what unforeseen sins and temptations I may be betrayed. I know not what guilty thoughts may find expression in unworthy and hasty and sinful words—defiling my conscience and dishonouring Thy holy name. Keep me from whatever is mercenary and avaricious;—from all double dealing;—from seeking to accomplish any end by tortuous means on which Thy blessing cannot descend. Preserve me from the selfishness that would appropriate Thy gifts alone for personal enjoyment and gratification. If I have in any measure freely received at Thy hands, may I feel it alike my duty and my privilege freely to give,—seeking to act under the lofty motive of pleasing Thee, and doing good unto all men as I have opportunity.

Lord have mercy on the afflicted. Point wounded spirits to the Great Physician, of whom it was said that "*He* healed them all." May they

consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest they be wearied and faint in their minds. May every rebellious tear be dried, as they listen to the gracious assurance—"As many as I love I rebuke and chasten." Recover the sick. Provide for the fatherless and the widow, and him that hath no helper. May bereaved ones hearken, amid the shadows of the Valley, to the beatitude of the heavenly voice—"Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours and their works do follow them." May all sufferers in this suffering world look forward to that happy time, when not a groan shall be heard throughout Thy ransomed creation—but when delivered from the bondage of corruption, it shall be translated into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

Bless Thy Church. May she be the

honoured instrument, more and more, of reclaiming those who are out of the way. Multiply the number of Thy devoted servants at home, who are ready to rush with their censer and incense between the living and the dead that the plague may be stayed. Bless all missionaries abroad,—those who, in heathen lands, are preparing the way of the Lord, and making straight in the desert an highway for our God. May they not be afraid of evil tidings, but may their hearts be fixed trusting in Thee. May the faithful saying—Jesus Christ, the Saviour of sinners—so potent in the past, vindicate, its claim still, to be the power of God unto salvation.

Anew I commend myself, and all near and dear to me, to Thy gracious care and keeping. Fit me for life, and for death, and for eternity. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO *INTO* THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

9TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"He doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men."—LAM. iii. 33.

Needed Discipline.

O GOD, enable me to approach this night the footstool of Thy Throne, with child-like confidence and love. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him, for He knoweth our frame, He remembereth that we are dust. May the Holy Spirit—the Sanctifier, the Quickener, the Comforter of His people, visit me with His gracious influences. Open the windows of Heaven, and send down some drops of the plentiful rain wherewith Thou dost refresh Thine heritage when it is weary, that I may feel it to be good for me to draw near unto God.

I desire to make acknowledgment of

my many sins;—my rebellious thoughts, my unbelieving doubts, my heinous backslidings;—my murmuring under Thy chastisements, my resisting of Thy grace, my grieving of Thy Spirit. My best motives have been mixed with self-seeking, arrogance, and vain glory. My best services have been marred with imperfection and impurity. "If Thou Lord shouldst mark iniquity, O Lord, who shall stand?" But there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared. Impart to me the blessed sense of Thy pardoning mercy. Restore unto me the joys of Thy salvation and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. If Thou art on my side, I shall fear no evil. The light of Thy countenance and the assurance of Thy favour can compensate for all losses. Whether Thou sendest adversity or prosperity, whether Thou conductest by the mountain or by the valley—by steep and *crooked,* or by smooth and pleasant

ways, let this be my comforting assurance and rejoicing confession—"All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth!" "Show me Thy ways, O Lord, teach me Thy paths; lead me in Thy truth and teach me, for Thou art the God of my salvation, on Thee do I wait all the day." Shouldst Thou see meet to subject me to severe and arduous discipline,—may I rest in the sweet confidence that it is needed; that it is a Father's rod that smites, and a Father's voice that speaks. Thou dost not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men. Enable me to maintain the testimony of a good conscience. In simplicity and godly sincerity, may I keep myself unspotted from the world, and seek in all things to glorify Thy holy name. Lift me out of the region of self. Conform me more and more to the image of Thy dear Son. Keep me from all evil surmisings; from all unkind interpretations of Thy dealings.

Give me the sanctified use of Thy dispensations; that so, when the angel of affliction comes down and troubles the pool, I may step in and be purified;—and thus the trial of my faith may be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

Look down in compassion on the extensive circle of sufferers, in a suffering world. O Thou Prince of Sufferers, who alone, by experience, canst gauge the depth of Thy people's sorrows, draw near to all such in Thine infinite mercy, and say "I am the Lord that healeth thee." May they listen to the reason of their trials coming from Thine own lips of love,—"Your Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." Comfort them with the thought of the Better world, where the pang of sickness is never felt, where the shadow of death never falls, and where the tear of bereavement never dims the eye. Strengthen and sustain the

dying. Grant unto them an abundant entrance into the heavenly kingdom.

Promote Thy cause everywhere. Encourage the oft drooping hearts of Thy ministering servants at home, as well as those who are lifting up their voices amid the wastes of heathenism. Hasten the day when the wilderness and the solitary place shall be made glad for them; when the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. Prosper all measures in this our land which tend to promote the social well-being, and the growth and spread of true and undefiled religion. May our nation continue, as in past ages, a faithful witness for the truth, and a diffuser of holy influences. The recipient of manifold spiritual riches and blessings, may she feel more and more her duty and responsibility, to be the almoner of these to others less highly favoured. God be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us,

—that Thy way may be know
the earth—Thy saving health
all nations.

Anew I commend myself, an
near and dear to me, to Thy g
care and keeping. May every
find us pitching our tents
heaven and nearer Thee: a
last, in the morning of immo
may we be permitted to awake
likeness, and to rejoice evermore
presence and love.

And to God the Father, God t
and God the Holy Ghost, be a
all blessing, and honour, and glo
praise, world without end. An

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS;
INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LOR

10TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath; That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us."—HEB. vi. 17, 18.

Strong Consolation.

O GOD, I beseech Thee to draw near to me in Thy great mercy. My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord: in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee and will look up. Fill my heart with Thy love; that I may feel the Gate of prayer to be as the Gate of heaven—the portal opening into a Father's presence.

I bless Thee that amid all changes Thou art unchanging;—that amid the instability and insecurity of human purposes—the fickleness of earthly counsels—I can exult in Thy faithfulness. Thou art the same. "The Lord liveth

and blessed be my Rock, and let the God of my salvation be exalted." I thank Thee especially, for the purchased blessings of that everlasting covenant which is well ordered in all things and sure. By two immutable things—Thine oath and Thy promise—in which it is impossible for God to lie, I have strong consolation.

And yet Lord, I have to acknowledge with shame and humiliation, that I have not been living up to my privileges. I have not been realising as I ought to have done, my position and prospects as an heir of these exceeding great and precious promises. Thy mercies have been too often received with unthankfulness, and Thy chastisements with repining. I have to bewail my want of faith and want of love—my coldness and deadness—the dulness of my spiritual perceptions—the oft surrender of my heart to objects and pursuits on which Thy favour cannot rest. I have

renounced too often to self, and the world, and sin, those affections and that service which should have been inalienably Thine.

Where can I look, in the hour of conscious unworthiness and demerit, but to the "strong consolation" of Thy blessed Word. If I have forgotten and forsaken my first love;—if other lords have had dominion over me;—if like a vessel I have broken loose from my moorings and been drifting away from Thee, may that hope—the hope of forgiveness now and the hope of heaven hereafter—both purchased and sealed for me in the cross of Thy dear Son—be as an anchor of the soul sure and steadfast, entering into that within the veil.

Fit me this day for the battle of life. Trusting to the promised aids of Thy Spirit, may I be enabled to resist the world, the flesh, and the devil. Keep me from absorbing love of earth,

—from all forbidden paths—from all doubtful and debateable ground. Preserve me from the lusts which debase, the selfishness which hardens, the anger or malice which, if unchecked and unrepressed, may grow into malevolence. Give me a spirit of watchfulness,—keeping vigil even in the hour of apparent security; ever listening to the needed monition "When thou thinkest thou standest, take heed lest thou fall." Preserve me from hard construction of Thy dealings—from hard construction of the doings and dealings of my fellow-creatures—from censorious and ungenerous suspicions. May I strive to make charitable allowance for those who injure me—eschewing all hastiness of speech or temper. If exposed to unmerited wrong, may I leave my cause with Thee.

I pray for all who may still be far from Thee—living without God and without hope in the world. May they *also be* led, ere it be too late, to flee for

refuge and lay hold on the hope set before them in the gospel;—confiding in the inviolability of Thine own oath and promise, "As I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth."

Hear the cry ascending from the dark places of the earth, full of the habitations of cruelty. Lord, how long? Let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; let the reign of the just be established. Bless and prosper every mission cause and enterprise. May idols be dethroned and idol-worship abolished, and may men know that Thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the most High over all the earth. Bless our beloved country. Give to its rulers wisdom and prudence and energy,—a sense of responsibility to Thee, by whom kings reign and princes decree justice. Reform whatever is evil—protect, conserve, and perpetuate whatever is good.

O Thou God of the mourner!—to the

fatherless be Thou a Father—to the widow a husband—to the friendless a friend. May all afflicted ones know, in the midst of their sorrows, the "strong consolation" imparted to those who have fled to Christ for refuge. Great and manifold as are Thy consolations at all times, Thou art specially a present help in trouble.

I again commend myself to Thee and to the word of Thy grace. Be Thou ever at my right hand and I shall not be moved. As an heir of promise, may my eye be upwards and my footsteps onwards. May everything tend to promote my spiritual advancement. May the joys of the way and the trials of the way alike bring me nearer heaven and nearer Thee. I ask these and all other needed blessings, in the name of Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO *INTO THEM*, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

10TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love."—1 JOHN iv. 8.

God is Love.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting Father, the God of my life, the length of my days, I desire this evening, ere I retire to rest, to offer the tribute of grateful praise for all Thy mercies vouchsafed to me, and to supplicate Thy blessing and guardian care during the silent watches of the night. I adore Thee for the gracious manifestations Thou hast made of Thy name and character and attributes—as the Holy and the Righteous, the Just and the True. Above all, I bless Thee for Thy best, Thy endearing name—"God is love." Thine outer creation proclaims it: the vocal melodies of wood and grove: the placid heavens above, and the bounteous earth beneath:—spring in its buds of promise, and summer with

its wealth of beauty. In a silent hymn of thanksgiving, universal nature testifies, "The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works."

But it is in the work and atonement of Thy dear Son, Thou hast given the mightiest proof and pledge of the great love wherewith Thou hast loved me. It is while seated at the foot of His cross, that I can most truly exclaim, "Herein indeed is love!" I rejoice to think of the eternity of that love;—that it existed before the birth of time or of worlds. Thou didst love Thy people with an everlasting love. And knowing no beginning of days, neither does it know end of years. Loving Thine own which are in the world, Thou lovest them unto the end. O Thou, whose nature and whose name is love, bring me to live under the power and influence of this divine perfection. May I be enabled, more and more, to love Him *who hath first* loved and so loved me.

Keep me from the guilt of requiting Thy love with ingratitude. May it secure and conciliate my confidence and trust. Deliver me from every heart-sin and life-sin that would tend to intercept its gracious effluence. By needed and salutary discipline, wean me from every less worthy object of affection. Subordinate all creature and created love to the divine. May the love of God be shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Ghost given unto me. Even shouldst Thou see meet to chequer my path with trials, may these prove heart-searchers, testing the depth and reality of my devotion to Him who must do all things well, and nothing but what *is* well; so that I may be able to say, under every varying scene of changeful life—"I have known and believed the love which God hath to me."

Bathed in the element of love to Thee a loving God, let me seek to love all around. Give me large and

generous thoughts and plans for the welfare of others. May that love of Thine, which has my own heart and the circle of my more immediate influence for its centre, have the world for its circumference. Let it radiate forth to all mankind.

Keep my dear friends and relatives in this same pavilion of love. May they pillow their heads this night on the divine assurance, "He that spared not His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things." Linked to one another and to Thee in these bonds of holy fellowship, may we together look forward to that daybreak of immortality when this divine affection will be enthroned supremely in every heart; when at last we shall all be able to comprehend, in some feeble measure, what is the height and depth and length and breadth, and to know the love of *Christ* which passeth knowledge.

Bless all in sorrow. May they indulge no hard suspicions of Thy faithfulness: may they trace no footsteps in their darkened way but the footsteps of love: may they hear no voice in their hushed chambers but the voice of love. May they listen to this explanation of Thy dealings, "As many as I love I rebuke and chasten."

Hasten the day, when this world, now groaning and travailing in pain and clad in the garments of sorrow, shall be arrayed in festive attire, and be enabled to exult in the glorious liberty of Thy children. Send times of refreshing unto Zion. Create upon all her dwelling-places and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night: upon all the glory be Thou a defence. Arise, O Lord, and plead Thine own cause.

Be pleased to forgive whatever in thought, in word, or in deed, I have committed against Thee this day. Ere

I retire to rest, sprinkle my he
the covenant token. Oh, Thou
bering Shepherd of Israel, gu
midnight hours; and when th
of the morning again are open
they be opened anew to the
Thy love, and to fresh heart-c
tion to Thy service and glory.

I present these humble s
tions, relying on nothing in
but trusting alone for pard
acceptance and peace, to the
and mediation of Jesus Chr
only Lord and Saviour. Amen

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LO

11TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."—PHIL. iv. 13.

The Secret of Strength.

O GOD, I desire to come into Thy gracious presence this morning, adoring Thee as the God of my life and the length of my days. The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?—the Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? Thou art the Fountain of all excellence; Thy loving-kindness is better than life.

I approach Thee in the name of Him whom Thou hearest always, and in whom Thou art ever well pleased. Come forth, Thou Great High Priest, in this the hour of morning sacrifice, and breathe upon me Thine own benediction, "Peace be unto you!" Fill me with all joy and *peace* in believing. O Lamb of

God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant me Thy peace! I rejoice in the dignity of Thy nature—the fulness of Thy grace—the tenderness of Thy sympathy—the prevalence of Thy pleadings. I go forth this day into a world of trouble and trial and conflict. In no armour or panoply of my own am I proof against the enemy;—but I take refuge in the elevating assurance that I can do all things, and suffer all things, and overcome all things, through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Meanwhile, give me calm contentment with my lot. May all its blessings be sweetened, by having them in Thee, and Thee in them. Keep me from all that would foster a spirit of unbelief and rebellion and murmuring. Give me a childlike docility;—tenderness of conscience—simplicity of trust—holiness of heart—obedience and consistency of life. May I be enabled to make a more entire and unreserved surrender

of myself—my will—my affections—my talents—my energies—my time—to Thee. Let me know that the promise is sure and unfailing, "My God shall supply all your need out of His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." May the fear of Thee, deliver from the sinful fear of man:—may the love of Thee, enable me to rise superior to the caprice and fitfulness of human friendships;—may the hope of being with Thee for ever, reconcile to the vicissitudes and trials of a changing, chequered, transient world. I rejoice that life's unknown future is in better keeping and disposal than in mine. I will be careful for nothing—knowing that the morrow will bring along with it from Thee, grace proportioned for all exigencies—strength in weakness, succour in temptation, patience in trial, and victory in death.

Bless my beloved friends. May the joy of the Lord be their strength also.

Keep them as the apple of Thine eye; —let them repose under the shadow of Thy wings. Look in great kindness on the afflicted. Hide them in the clefts of the Rock until these calamities be overpast. Reveal Thyself unto them in another way than Thou dost unto the world. Show them that Thou seest meet at times to bring them out from themselves — their own likings, and trusts, and confidences, and earthly joys, —that they may lean on Thine arm. Show them, that in the realised possession of Thy love and favour, they have what will fill all blanks and compensate for all losses. May they go from strength to strength, until every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

I pray for the peace and prosperity of Jerusalem. May she rise from the dust and put on her beautiful garments; a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord and a royal diadem in the

hand of our God. Give to Thy churches a spirit of unity and concord: lead them willingly to co-operate in every good work and labour of love, so that, though there be many separate flocks, they may all look to the one Guiding Shepherd; though differing in outer organisation, they may be all truly one in Christ Jesus. Disperse the brooding darkness of the world, and utter Thine own omnific mandate, "Let there be light."

Direct, control, suggest this day, all my designs—my deeds—my words. Let me carry the fragrance of the mercy-seat out into the world. May a sense of Thy presence prove a preservative against temptation. Keep back Thy servant also from presumptuous sins, and let them not have dominion over me. And all I ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

11TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, theugh he were dead, yet shall he live."—JOHN xi. 25.

The Resurrection and Life.

MOST blessed God, my Heavenly Father—I desire to come into Thy gracious presence this night, having my heart filled with gratitude and thankfulness for all Thine unmerited mercies. That I have been protected throughout the day, from danger, and accident, and disease,—that I have been shielded from sin and temptation, it is all Thy doing. Thy hand has been around me for good. It is Thou, Lord, only who makest me to dwell in safety.

I bless Thee for the exceeding riches of Thy grace, in Thy kindness towards me through Christ Jesus. I bless Thee for His spotless obedience—His meritorious death—His glorious resurrec-

tion. I bless Thee that I can enter by faith His vacant sepulchre, and hear the joyful assurance, "He is not here, He is risen." In that gracious declaration, I have the pledge and testimony that Thou the Father hast accepted His completed work;—that Thou, in Him, hast begotten us again unto a lively hope;—the hope of an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Enable me by faith to rise and walk with Him in newness of life. Risen with Christ, may I seek those things that are above, where He sitteth at the right hand of God. May my life now be hid with Christ in God, that when Christ who is my life shall appear, I may also appear with Him in glory. May Thy Holy Spirit dwell within me, quickening this life of faith in Thy dear Son, and promoting the growth of every spiritual and heavenly grace.

Forgive, Lord, all the offences I have

committed against Thee this day;—the sins of thought and word and deed. Blot them out of the book of Thy remembrance. Ere I retire to rest, I would seek to wash anew in the opened fountain; and to receive anew the blessed assurance of Thy pardoning love in Jesus. Watch over me during the unconscious hours of slumber. As Thou hast been a pillar of cloud by day, be Thou as a pillar of fire by night. Grant to me, and to all near and dear to me, refreshing sleep, even the sleep of Thy beloved; and may the return of a new morning be a fresh earnest of that better day-dawn of immortality, when we shall awake in Thy likeness, and earth's shadows and darkness shall for ever flee away.

I commend all in sickness and sorrow to Thine own infinite compassion. Be Thou a Friend to the friendless, a Father to the fatherless. Point every bereft one beyond the gloom of the

grave, to Him who, as the Resurrection and the Life, has flooded the dark Valley with glorious light—who Himself, having overcome the sharpness of death, has opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers. Bless the whole human race. Open to a perishing world the Gates of righteousness; that multitudes now sitting in darkness may enter in and praise the Lord. Bless Thy Church everywhere;—send times of refreshing unto Zion. O Lord, revive Thy work in the midst of the years. Arouse and quicken the careless and ungodly. Bring into the way of truth all such as have erred and are deceived. Ere the day of grace and mercy be past, may they be led to behold the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world; and remember the words of the Lord Jesus how He said, "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." Oh, teach us all to be living in habitual preparation for death and

judgment and eternity; that when the cry shall be heard in the midst of the heavens, "Behold the Bridegroom cometh," we may be ready, and not ashamed before Him at His coming.

I ask these, and all other needful blessings, in the name of Him whom Thou hearest always;—the Great Advocate and Intercessor: who, with Thee the Father, and Thee the ever-blessed Spirit, Three in One in covenant for our salvation, ever liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

12TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee."—ISA. liv. 10.

Covenant Faithfulness.

O GOD, I come into Thy presence on this the morning of a new day, rejoicing in Thy covenant faithfulness. Thou changest not. The mountains shall depart and the hills shall be removed. Human props may fail; human friends may grow cold; adversity may alienate; death must separate. But Thou art the same. Thy kindness shall not be taken from us. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

How great has been Thy patience towards me! Despite of all my faults and failings—my backslidings and declensions—Thy hand of mercy and forbear-

ance is stretched out still. Thou art God and not man, therefore it is that the sons of Jacob are not consumed. Unchangeableness cannot be thwarted by creature vacillation:—Infinite fulness cannot be exhausted by finite wants. I bless Thee, O Lord, especially, that I can exult in the faithfulness and immutability of Jesus: —that He who of old received sinners—who came to seek and to save the lost—who brake not the bruised reed nor quenched the smoking flax, —is still unchanged as He lived and loved and compassionated on earth. This is His name and memorial to all generations, and which ages and generations cannot alter—"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and to-day and for ever."

Ere I go forth to my worldly duties and engagements, I would desire to repair to His cross, there to have all the *blessings* of the everlasting covenant

anew ratified and sealed. Out of His infinite fulness I would seek to derive the needed grace and strength to fit me for work and warfare. I may perchance this day have some untried path before me. There may be some unknown temptation to encounter—some unforeseen burden to bear. Arm me for every conflict. Amid all harassments and troubles and disquietudes, amid all taunts and provocations, let me endure as seeing Thee who art invisible. Having avouched the Lord to be my covenant God, may I aspire more and more after purity of heart and consistency of character. Give me grace, with a single eye to Thy glory, to fill my sphere in life whatever it be;—doing my duty heartily as to the Lord and not unto men:—jealous of aught that would tend to alienate my affections from Thee, and lead me into divisive courses—dubious and debateable ground on which Thy blessing cannot rest. Let me bear upon

me the lofty impress of those, born from above and for above:—grateful and thankful for the many means and sources of enjoyment Thou hast given in the present life, yet seeking to live a pilgrim and stranger on the earth, having my citizenship in heaven.

Compassionate a dead and dying world. Darkness is covering the lands and gross darkness the people. May the summons be heard, "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." From kingdom to kingdom, and from shore to shore, let the cry in due time ascend, "O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation." Prosper all Bible and missionary agencies. May Thy servants, alike at home and abroad, be valiant for the truth. May they experience much of Thy presence and witness much of Thy power. Baptize

them with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

Look down in mercy on all who are afflicted,—tossed with tempest and not comforted:—on all who are mourning the sudden extinction of some star in their firmament—the premature withering of some cherished gourd. May they know that they can have no real loss, if they have more of Thy fellowship and presence and love.

I pray for all my dear friends. May they be among the beloved of the Lord who dwell safely. Bless them and make them blessings. Now bound up together in the bundle of life—may we be found at last, without spot and blameless, when the harvest of the earth shall be reaped. The Lord grant unto us that we may find mercy of the Lord on that day. And all I ask is for the Saviour's sake, Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

K.

12TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"The love of Christ, which passeth knowledge."—EPH. iii. 19.

The love of Christ.

O GOD, who art making the outgoings of the evening and of the morning to rejoice over me, I beseech Thee to draw near this night in Thy great mercy, as I approach Thy presence through this blessed Portal of Love. Thou hast been my watchful Protector and Guardian during another day. Vouchsafe me still Thy blessing. I would now retire to rest, under the shadow of Thy wings, feeling that it is Thou Lord only, who makest me to dwell in safety.

I bless Thee that I am permitted to look up unto Thee as my covenant God and heavenly Father; that with boldness and confidence I am invited to the Throne of the heavenly grace, there to unburden all my wants and difficulties,

my perplexities and temptations, and to receive the twofold boon, of mercy to pardon, and grace to help. Fill me with a deep sense of the greatness and magnitude of the love of Christ. Teach me in some feeble measure to comprehend its height and depth, its length and breadth, and to experience its constraining influence. Blessed Saviour—Thou who hast loved me with an everlasting love, enable me to feel that I am not my own. May I seek to make a joyful and willing surrender of my soul's best affections to Thee, who hast ransomed me with Thy precious blood. May all earthly love be subordinated to Thine. Let there be no rival or competing affection. Conscious of the predominance of divine spiritual motives and purposes, may I be enabled in honest sincerity to avow—'Lord, Thou Great Redeemer—Thou Great Heart-searcher, Thou knowest all things, Thou knowest that I love Thee.'

Help me to the cultivation of all the graces of the Christian character. Raise me above all that is mean or ungenerous—unkind or resentful—censorious or uncharitable. Let the law of love, which has had its highest and loftiest exemplification in the doing and dying of Jesus, find expression also in my daily walk and conversation. God is love—and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in him.

Bless my friends and relatives. May that same love of Jesus form the motive principle in their actions. O Thou Blessed Source of all grace! as the first fruit produced by Thee in the regenerated heart is love—do Thou nurture in them the spirit of Love. Let them live and act, as seeing Thee who art invisible:—and when all that is fitful and changing in affection here below has terminated, may the fellowships and friendships of earth be *resumed* indissolubly in glory.

Lord, have mercy on a fallen world. In the region and shadow of death, may the Sun of Righteousness arise. Terminate the reign of selfishness and tyranny—of error and superstition. Let the gospel of love sheathe all swords of war, unbind all chains of slavery, and unite the nations in a holy brotherhood. Let the wind and earthquake and fire of human passion pass by—and let the Lord of love be heard in His own 'still small voice.'

Bless Thy ministering servants at home—stand by all Thy faithful missionaries in their varied fields of labour in distant lands. May they be the honoured instruments in laying many trophies at the feet of their Great Master. May their bow abide in strength, and their arms be made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob.

Forgive blessed Lord—for the sake of Thy dear Son—all that I have this day spoken or done amiss. As the

Gates of the evening are closing, I would anew hear Thy benign voice of pardoning mercy, saying, "Your sins are forgiven you." As I resign myself, once more, to that which is the image of death, may I feel that it is Thy kindness and mercy alone, night after night, which prevents the emblem being converted into a reality. Oh, grant, that when that reality does overtake me,—when I am summoned at last to a dying hour and dying pillow—the last long slumber; through the merits of Thy dear Son I may have a blissful and glorious awaking in the morning of Immortality.

I ask these, and all other needful blessings, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

13TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass: and he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noon-day."—Ps. xxxvii. 5, 6.

The Committed Way.

O GOD, I desire, as the Gates of the morning are again opened, to commit my way to Thee throughout a new day. Thou art nigh to them that call upon Thee, to all that call upon Thee in truth. To Thee all hearts are open—all desires known, and from Thee no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of my heart by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that I may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy name.

Thou art the Supreme Disposer. There is no such thing as accident or chance in Thy providential rule. Each varying scene in this varying chequered

life is from Thee alone. In all difficulties and perplexities, enable me to commit implicitly my way unto Thy better direction;—hearing Thy voice behind me saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it;" rejoicing in Thy wise orderings, Thy beneficent purposes; and willing to tread, if need be, the roughest path, because it is Thy sovereign will and wisdom to lead me there.

Thou knowest how unworthy I am to come into Thy presence, or to take Thy thrice holy name into my lips. If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared; with the Lord there is mercy and plenteous redemption. I come to Thy footstool, through Him who has cancelled all debts and fulfilled all righteousness; who is now exalted a Mighty Pleader at Thy right hand—the Prince who has power with *God and* must prevail. For His sake,

receive me graciously and love me freely. Out of His infinite fulness may I receive for all exigencies even grace for grace;—sustaining grace, restraining grace, sanctifying grace. When temptation assails, may I be enabled, in a strength greater than my own, to resist. In the trying warfare of life, cover Thou my head in the day of battle; that finally I may be made more than conqueror through Him that loved me.

Teach me ever devoutly to follow the leadings, and to imbibe the spirit, of the divine Redeemer. Keep me from the manifestation of unholy tempers;—from the pride which elates; from the worldliness which hardens; from all unkindness and uncharitableness. Enable me to put the best construction on the motives and actions of others; not passing harsh and censorious comments on their inconsistencies or failings—but rather considering myself lest I also be

tempted. If assailed wrongfully with the tongue of malice or slander, may I seek, like Him who was dumb before His shearers, to repress the spirit of retaliation;—to commit myself to One that judgeth righteously, and who has promised to them that so trust Him, to bring forth their righteousness as the light and their judgment as the noonday. Invigorate my drooping faith, quicken my spiritual apprehensions, stimulate my wavering purposes and languid zeal, incline me to a more hearty and entire consecration of soul and body to Thy service and glory.

O Thou God of all consolation—the God in whom compassions flow, bestow Thy tenderest sympathy on poor afflicted ones: especially on those who may be mourning the loss of beloved friends. Committing too their darkened way unto Thee, may the words of promise contained in holy Scripture, come out *as ministering* angels in their night of

sorrow, cheering them with hopes full of immortality. May the dying pass through the gates of death to the unending enjoyment of Thy presence and love. And may we be stirred by the example of those, who have fought the good fight and obtained the crown.

Bless my dear friends, temporally and spiritually. Set Thy covenant mark and seal on each of their foreheads. Look in mercy on Thy Church throughout all the world. May the Lord create upon every dwelling-place of Mount Zion and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night, and upon all the glory be Thou a defence.

I anew commend myself to Thee and to the word of Thy grace. And all I ask, is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

13TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."—MATT. v. 8.

Purity of heart.

O GOD, I desire to come into Thy presence this night, beseeching Thee to vouchsafe me a Father's blessing. Let my prayer come before Thee as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. The most acceptable oblation I can offer, is that of the broken and the contrite heart; the sweetest incense—the incense of gratitude and thankfulness. Give me this brokenness of spirit; fill me with all joy and peace in believing, that I may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Ghost.

I have to confess and mourn my great unworthiness. How far short have I come of that holiness of heart and

purity of life, without which no man can see the Lord. How many sinful thoughts have I harboured;—how many guilty words have I spoken;—how many duties have I omitted, or carelessly and perfunctorily performed. How little gratitude have I shown for blessings;—how little patience under crosses. How much pride has there been in my humility;—how little child-like trust in Thy dealings. How have even my best resolutions to serve Thee, been erased by the world's oblivion-power. How often have I returned to those very sins I had solemnly sworn and covenanted I was to part with for ever. Lord, have mercy upon me! I come anew, guilty, polluted, helpless, —to Him who is help and hope and portion to all who seek Him. My own repentings and tears cannot cleanse away the guilt of a single transgression. But the blood of Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, cleanseth from them all.

While I look to Him as my only Saviour, and rely alone for justification on His atoning sacrifice, enable me to make His stainless, heavenly life, my habitual model and pattern. Give me grace to purify myself even as He is pure. May the Holy Spirit, the Glorifier of Jesus, take of the things that are His and show them unto me;—that beholding, as in a glass, the glory alike of His divine character and His spotless obedience, I may be changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Lord the Spirit. Do Thou confirm and strengthen every Christlike principle within me; and may principle have its outcome in deed and action. May perfect love cast out fear. When at any time assailed with tormenting doubts or fiery temptations,—may I know that He is faithful that promised "I will make my grace sufficient for thee, I will perfect strength in weakness." May whatever is displeasing,

Lord, to Thee, be displeasing to me. Give me integrity of purpose, and simplicity of service, and loftiness of aim. May I speak kindly and act gently. Keep me from uttering anything that would infringe on truth, or that would injure the absent. Let all I do, and all I say, be inspired by that charity which is the bond of perfectness.

I commend those in sorrow to Thy sympathy;—especially any in whom I may be more deeply interested. May they see Thee thus educating them for eternity. By the sanctifying use of affliction, may losses be turned into gains. Coming forth from the furnace, as gold tried in the fire, may they at last be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

Bless Thy Church everywhere. Bless all the sanctuaries throughout our land. May every House of God be as the Gate of Heaven:—do Thou there command the blessing, even life for evermore.

Repress and subdue sectarian bitterness and animosity. May the alabaster box be broken in the midst of Thy worshipping assemblies, and may the whole temple-courts be fragrant with the odour of the ointment. Pour the continual dew of Thy blessing on the faithful ministers and stewards of Thy mysteries. Anoint them with fresh oil. May they go in the strength of the Lord God; and ever hear the sound of their Master's footsteps behind them. Remember all devoted labourers in heathen lands. Going forth weeping, bearing the precious seed, may they be cheered with the promise, that they shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing their sheaves with them.

And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in Thee. Abide with me, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me. Shield my body from *danger* and my soul from sin; and as

each night gathers its shadows around, may it find me better fitted and prepared for the day of consummated holiness in Thy presence and kingdom, and for experiencing, in all its reality, the fulfilment of Thine own beatitude, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." And all I ask is in the name, and for the sake, of Jesus Christ my only Lord and Saviour; to whom, with Thee the Father, and Thee the Holy Spirit, be ascribed, as is most due, all honour and glory and praise, world without end. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

14TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."—TITUS ii, 13.

The second coming.

O GOD, I desire to thank Thee that the Gates of the morning are again opened, and that I am permitted to approach the footstool of Thy Throne. Pour out upon me a spirit of grace and of supplication. May I draw near to Thee with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having my heart sprinkled from an evil conscience, and my body washed as with pure water. Ere I enter on the duties and engagements of a new day, I would seek to have Thy blessing and benediction resting upon me. May the pillar of Thy presence go before me. Thou hast watched over me during the *silence* and darkness of another night

O Thou who leadest Joseph like a flock, be in the daytime a shadow from the heat. If Thy presence go not with me, carry me not hence.

I desire to bless Thy holy name for the first coming of the Redeemer; when "the Great God" became "my Saviour;" when He veiled His glory, and, in the likeness of sinful flesh, tabernacled among men;—humbling Himself and becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. I bless Thee for the fulness and completeness of His mediatorial work; that He magnified Thy law—satisfying all demands—fulfilling all righteousness, and proclaiming with triumphant voice, "It is finished."

I bless Thee that, from His first advent in lowliness and humiliation, I can look forward to His second coming "without the sin-offering, unto salvation;" when He shall be glorified in His saints, and admired in all them that

believe. May that event ever be to me "the blessed hope"—the brightest rainbow of promise which spans the sky of the future. May I be "looking" for it;—living habitually ready to utter the cry of joyful expectancy—"Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"—Lo! "this is our God, I have waited for Him."

Meanwhile, give me grace to love Him more and serve Him better. May my belief be more simple—my devotion more ardent—my walk more consistent—my obedience more uniform and sincere; that I may not, like many, be found at last, all unmeet and unprepared for the Bridegroom's approach;—but rather, with loins girded and lamp burning, go forth to join the festal train, and be among the number of the waiting servants, who, when their Lord cometh, are ready to open unto Him immediately.

In the prospect of that day, may I *keep a sacred* and watchful guard alike

over my thoughts and actions. Give me that charity which suffereth long and is kind; which seeketh not her own—is not easily provoked—thinketh no evil;—which rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth. May Thy good hand be with me, whether in the discharge of household or of business duties. Keep me from the absorbing love of the world; from coveting earthly good rather than heavenly riches. Keep me from all that would dim, to the eye of faith, the glories of the future. Enable me to live habitually, as I would wish I had been living, when the Son of man cometh.

The same blessings I ask for myself, I implore in behalf of all near and dear to me. May they too be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless. Attaining now a gradual conformity to His holy mind and image,—when He shall appear, may they be like Him, when they shall see Him as He is.

Thus united to one another, alike in ties of human relationship and in the fellowship of the gospel, may all of us, having this common hope in us, purify ourselves, even as He is pure.

Bless the children of sorrow. Let them also anticipate with joy that day when all mysteries will be unfolded—all wrongs redressed—all sufferings removed—all corruptions vanquished—and death itself swallowed up in eternal victory.

Let the world, now groaning and travailing in pain, exult in the prospect of her coming emancipation,—when, delivered from the bondage of corruption, she shall be translated into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. Prince of peace! take to Thyself Thy great power and reign;—soon may predicted voices be heard saying—"The kingdoms of this world are become the one kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He *shall reign* for ever and ever!" May

Thy churches be more and more faithful to their great missionary responsibilities. Baptize every ambassador of the cross with the Holy Ghost and with fire;—and when the enemy is coming in like a flood, may this same Divine Spirit set up a standard to resist him.

I now commend myself, soul and body, to Thy gracious care, O Thou Great God my Saviour! Never leave and never forsake me: guide me while I live by Thy counsel, and afterwards receive me into glory. And to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, be ascribed, as is most due, all blessing and honour and glory and praise, world without end. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

14TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."—1 JOHN iv. 10.

The Proof of Love.

O GOD, my heavenly Father, who art ever waiting to be gracious, and who art more ready to hear than Thy children are to ask, do Thou draw near to me at this time in Thy great kindness, and fill me with all peace and joy in believing. Thou hast been a pillar of cloud to me by day—my Protector and Guardian. Be Thou as a pillar of fire through the silent watches of the night. It is Thou, the great Shepherd of Israel, who givest Thy beloved sleep.

I adore Thee, alike as my Maker and my Redeemer. Thou hast filled the outer creation with manifold proofs of Thy love, in brightness of sky, and beauty of *flower; in* music of stream, and song of

bird. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. But I adore Thee, especially, for the mightiest proof which Thou hast given of Thy benignity and kindness, in the person and work of Thy dear Son! Herein indeed is love. If at times unable to trace, in Thy mysterious providential dealings, the footsteps of mercy; —if at times tempted, under baffling dispensations, to say, "Thy judgments are a great deep,"—"Verily Thou art a God that hidest Thyself;" seated at the foot of Calvary's cross, we can joyfully exclaim, "We have known and believed the love God hath to us." Man's love is changing—Thine is unchanging:—man's love is finite—Thine is infinite:—man's love is the result of kindness—the return of love for love,—but Thou commendest Thy love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Thanks, eternal thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift!

I adore the freeness and sovereignty

of that love. It was *from* everlasting, as it is *to* everlasting,—unbought and unprocured by any poor love of mine. May I ever bear about with me Thine own gracious declaration, as the only reason for its bestowment—"My ways are not your ways, neither are my thoughts your thoughts." Thou art God and not man. Man's thoughts would have been condemnation, judgment, wrath:—but Thy thoughts towards us are thoughts of peace and not of evil. How precious are these Thy thoughts of love unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! May the exceeding riches of Thy grace, in Thy kindness bestowed through Christ Jesus, exercise a constraining influence on my heart and life. Feeling the infinite debt of obligation under which I am laid to the divine Redeemer, may soul and body be consecrated as living sacrifices to Him, who so freely surrendered and consecrated His all for me. Blessed

Saviour, make me Thine. I am Thine by creation, I am doubly Thine by redemption. Quicken my faith, deepen my love, stimulate my obedience. Under the guidance and influence of lofty principle, may my eye be single, that my whole body may be full of light.

Bless my dear friends. Reward my benefactors. Pardon any who have wronged me. May I seek to conquer unkindness with kindness. Give me peace of conscience—charity towards all men. If in social intercourse, or in any of my dealings and transactions to-day, I have transgressed the golden rule—cherished an ungenerous thought—uttered an unkind or resentful word, or harboured an unjust suspicion—good Lord, forgive me.

Bless Thy Church everywhere. Be a wall of fire around her: over all the glory be Thou a defence. To whatever outward denomination they belong, do Thou abundantly strengthen Thy ministering servants. May their speech and

their preaching not be with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and with power. May those who have gone forth as Thine accredited ambassadors to heathen nations, enjoy many visible tokens of Thy presence and blessing. May the precious seed, sown often with a trembling hand in ungenial soil, be watered by the dews of heaven, and yield an abundant harvest.

Sanctify Thy dealings to all mourners in Zion. Pity, relieve, comfort them. Thou healest the broken in heart and bindest up their wounds. Let them see, in the love of Jesus, the pledge and guarantee of love in all that befalls them.

Hear, O Lord, in heaven, Thy holy habitation, this my evening prayer; when Thou hearest forgive, and grant me an answer in peace, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO *INTO THEM*, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

15TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him."—LAM. iii. 25.

Patient waiting.

O GOD, Inspirer of all good thoughts, the Hearer and Answerer of prayer—do Thou draw near to me in infinite loving-kindness. At this Morning-gate of Thy Temple, I desire anew to ask Thy blessing, and to invoke Thy favour. Thou hast graciously said, that Thou art good to those, who, in simplicity of faith and earnestness of trust and hope, wait upon Thee. "My soul, wait Thou only upon God, for my expectation is from him!"

I thank Thee for Thy sparing mercy. While others have been laid on beds of sickness, or prostrated by accident, or called away by sudden death,—I am this hour among the living to praise Thee. How constant and how tender

has been Thy care and kindness to me in the days that are past! How enduring Thy long-suffering, despite of countless provocations, and in the midst of ingratitude and disobedience, declension and backsliding!

I wait upon Thee, this morning, to implore forgiveness for the past and grace for the future. Give me the blessed sense of pardon and peace through the blood of the cross. Seal to me afresh the blessings of the new and well ordered covenant. Say, in mingled omnipotence and love, "Your sins are all forgiven you." Being thus forgiven much, may I lean upon Thee and trust Thee in the time to come; feeling that I cannot be in better or in safer keeping than in Thine. For all my joys, may I have chastened gratitude and thankfulness while they are granted; yet seeking not to invest them with a permanency which is not *theirs*. And when Thou curtailest them,

or takest them away, let me not dishonour Thee with guilty doubts and distrustful fears. May this thought silence every murmur—"He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not, with Him also, freely give us all things." May I know and feel assured, that all things, by immutable covenant, *are* working, and *will* work together for good to them that love Thee. Thus do Thou shed hope and joy and peace around my daily path; may Goodness and Mercy, like two guardian angels, follow me all the days of my life, and may my dwelling be in the house of the Lord for ever.

Ere I engage in my daily duties, I would implore Thy guidance and protection. I cannot forecast the circumstances in which I may be placed today; what temptations may beset me —what troubles may oppress me. Let a sense of Thy presence hallow my worldly work:—that so, begun, carried

on, and ended in Thee, all may redound to Thy praise and glory. Let me use, with a glad and grateful heart, the many enjoyments Thou hast given me in this beautiful earth; but abolish the evil dominion of self and selfishness. Keep me from the beguiling and seductive love of pleasure, on which Thy approval cannot rest. Write the law of kindness on my heart. Let it be my happiness and joy to minister to others. May I feel that it is better to give than to receive; better to be last than to be first. Keep me pure and guileless:—preserve me from false living,—from all artifice—all underhand and dubious dealings — all crooked and covetous ways. May my converse be sincere, my conscience clear as the noonday. Serving Thee cheerfully here, may I become more and more fitted for the full consecration—the perfect spontaneity of the heavenly world.

I pray for all unsolaced, unsuccoured,

and unpitied ones; all the wide circle and family of affliction. O Thou who bearest Thy people, as a man beareth his own son that serveth him,—do Thou bear their griefs and carry their sorrows. Even when wills are thwarted and plans are crossed—may they too know what it is "to wait only upon God." May the bruising in the olive-press of trial, only cause an overflow of the oil of joyful submission. Spare useful and valued lives. Let not the sun of existence go down ere it is yet day. Prepare the dying for death and what is after death. May they exult in the finished work of Jesus: may the music of His name refresh their souls in the closing hour; and when they are taken away, may those left to mourn their loved and lost, know that the message "Thou shalt die and not live," comes from Thee.

I pray for Thy Church. Increase her

faith, stimulate her zeal, heal her breaches. O Blessed Redeemer, who, by reason of these unhappy divisions, art wounded in the house of Thy friends—do Thou bring the varied members of the household of faith nearer Thee, and then they shall be nearer one another. Send times of refreshing unto Zion. Pour upon her the continual dew of Thy blessing:—may no part of the fleece be dry. Beautify Thy sanctuary: make the place of Thy feet glorious.

Anew I commend myself and all belonging to me, this day, to Thy gracious keeping. Waiting upon Thee, may I be enabled to renew my strength,—and know that Thou never sayest to any of the seed of Jacob, Seek ye my face in vain. And all I ask is for Jesus' sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

15TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."—ROM. vii. 3, 4.

The Fourfold Plea.

MOST blessed and everlasting God, who hast been my guide and guardian and protector throughout the day, I approach the Gates of prayer to-night, with my evening tribute of gratitude and thanksgiving. Others, who rose this morning in health and strength, have been summoned without a note of warning into an eternal world. I am among the living to praise Thee. In my case, too, the axe might have been laid at the root of the tree, and the mandate have gone forth, "Cut it down." It is of the Lord's mercies that I am not consumed.

I render unto Thee praise for all the outward blessings of my lot—for food

and raiment—for bright sunshine and revolving season—for social and domestic pleasures—the endearments of kindred and home—the fellowship of loving and congenial hearts. I bless Thee, above all, for spiritual privileges. I render Thee devout thanks for the finished work of my adorable Redeemer. Looking to myself—my own guilty doings and demerits—there is everything to sadden and overwhelm. But, blessed be Thy name, Thou hast put this new song with its fourfold theme into my lips—'Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ is at the right hand of God; Christ maketh intercession.' I rejoice to think, that, as the great Angel of the Covenant, He is ever pleading before the throne—bearing on His breastplate the names of His true Israel. Looking to the perfection of His sacrifice, the efficacy of His intercession, the fulness and all-sufficiency of His grace, I *can joyfully* make the challenge, "Who is

he that condemneth?" "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." Reposing on these gracious covenant assurances, I would retire to rest this night, cheered by the thought, that I am tended by the sleepless eye of Israel's unslumbering Shepherd.

Forgive the sins of the past day;—the sins I have committed against Thee my God—the sins I have committed against my fellow-creatures; any unkind thoughts, or uncharitable judgments or censorious sayings. Sanctify me by the indwelling of Thy gracious Spirit. Risen with Christ, may I live under the power of holy principles and renewed affections; seeking to make His divine example and spotless character,—in His patience and meekness, His forgiveness and submission,—the guide and regulator in all my duties and intercourse. Bearing about with me con-

tinually the dying of the Lord Jesus—may the life also of Jesus be thus made manifest in my mortal flesh.

I pray for all on whom Thou hast been laying Thy chastening hand. May they too know the quickening power of His resurrection and the sympathetic fellowship of His sufferings. If they have been brought in sad experience to feel, that change is their portion here—that hopes are transient, joys insecure, friendships perishing,—may they look upwards to an unchanging Saviour-God, and listen to His assurance—"Fear not; I am He that liveth and was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore, and have the keys of the grave and of death." Comfort all who have been bereaved of beloved relatives:—grateful for the valued loan, may they resign the trust to the great Proprietor of life. Only yielding Thee what is Thine, may it be theirs to say, "Thy will be done!"

Bless Thy Church everywhere. Heal

divisions. Hasten the time when the watchmen on Zion's battlements shall see eye to eye and heart to heart. We know that there is a day coming, when the divine saying shall receive its joyful fulfilment—"Behold how good and pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." We would long, good Lord, for the realisation of this holy brotherhood of Christians and of churches;—that blessed era, when there shall be no contrariety to Thy mind; when all shall be in blessed accordance with Thy will; and when, in answer to the Redeemer's prayer, His people, all becoming one, the world shall believe. Let Thy word triumph over pride and infidelity—superstition and will-worship. Let the people praise Thee, O God, yea let all the people praise Thee. The harvest truly is plenteous and the labourers are few. I would pray the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth labourers to His har-

vest. Spirit of truth and love and peace! speed forth in Thy glorious mission; and utter the divine summons over the darkened and degraded nations, "Let there be light!"

Lord, I anew commend myself, and all near and dear to me, to Thy gracious keeping. Lift upon me the light of Thy countenance and give me peace. Watch over me during the unconscious hours of sleep; and when the Gates of the morning are again opened, may I rise, in Thy strength, fitted for the discharge of the duties and employments of another day. Hear me, gracious Father, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

16TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away."—1 PET. i. 3, 4.

The lively hope.

O GOD ALMIGHTY, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I thank Thee for all the manifold tokens of Thy goodness and love. The Gates of the morning have again been opened. Do Thou open, along with them, the Gates of Righteousness, that I may enter in and praise the Lord. Enkindle within my heart holy desires and devout affections. May these be pre-occupied with Thee, and with the things which belong to my everlasting peace. May I have Thy blessing resting upon all my duties and engagements this day,—the blessing which maketh rich and addeth no sor-

row with it. May no created good be suffered to displace the sense and assurance I enjoy of Thy favour and friendship.

I bless Thee, above all, for Thine abundant mercy in the purchased, incorruptible inheritance. Change is our portion here. We are ever reminded, in the course of Thy Providence, of the precarious tenure which links us to all earthly objects of happiness. But in the Resurrection of Jesus I have the pledge and earnest of enduring blessings —"the lively hope"—the hope "full of immortality." In His finished work alone is all my dependence placed. With quiet confidence, I desire to repose in His covenant love and in the plenitude of His promises. O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world, grant me Thy peace!

Teach me ever to realise what a needy pensioner I am, from day to day *and from* hour to hour, on Thy grace

Hold Thou me up! Keep me, guide me, protect me, undertake for me. In temptation succour me—in danger defend me—in sorrow comfort me. If Thou sendest prosperity, enable me to carry the cup with a steady hand. If Thou sendest adversity, enable me to glorify Thee in the midst of the fires—adoring a 'taking' as well as a 'giving' God. As a member of the Christian priesthood, may it be my desire to offer on Thine altar the continual sacrifice of a humble spirit, and a holy, pure, consistent life. Keep the lamp of faith and love trimmed and burning. Let me aim, more and more, at the crucifixion of sin and self. Shouldst Thou speak at times by crossed dealings and mysterious dispensations, reading the impressive lesson of earth's corruptible and defiled and fading inheritances,—may I harbour no guilty suspicions of Thy faithfulness, or seek to arraign the papointments of paternal wisdom. But

looking beyond to that which is imperishable,—in answer to the question, "Is it well with thee?" may I seek to be ready with the unhesitating reply, "It is well."

God of Bethel—the God of my fathers—the God of all the families of the earth—I pray in behalf of those near and dear to me:—beseeching Thee to grant them a saving interest in that same unfading heritage. Make them partakers of Thine abundant mercy:—prepare them for Thy Son's appearing and kingdom; and let nothing dim or obscure the brightness of that "blessed hope."

Extend Thy succour and sympathy to all in sorrow. Let them bear, with patient equanimity, whatever Thou seest meet to appoint. Put into their lips the prayer, divinely taught, "Thy will be done." Seeking to have no jot or tittle altered in the allotments of *infinite love*, may they look forward to

that morning without clouds, when in Thy light they shall see light, and when every shadow which now dims and darkens shall for ever flee away.

Prosper Thy cause and kingdom on the earth. Reveal Thyself to the nations who know Thee not, as a Father—the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed Saviour, hast Thou not said, regarding the world Thou hast redeemed, "The hour cometh when the true worshippers shall worship the *Father* in spirit and in truth?" Hasten the time, in Thine own good way, when "neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem," nor in any exclusive "holy places,"—but when from the lips of ransomed humanity the cry shall be heard —"Doubtless Thou art our Father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not."

And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee. Let all my duties this day, whether private and domestic

—or public and in the world, be performed under a sense of Thine approval, and under the consciousness of Thy strengthening and upholding grace: that so, when the shades of evening have again gathered, I may be enabled, in grateful remembrance, anew to set up my Ebenezer and to say—"The Lord hath helped me." And all I ask is for the Saviour's sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

16TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life."—JOHN iii. 36.

Believing.

O GOD, I bless Thee that in the multitude of Thy mercies the Gates of the evening have again closed upon me in peace. May the great Angel of the Covenant descend, and mingle the fragrance of His adorable merits with the evening incense-cloud; that my prayers, mingled though they be with much imperfection and sin, may ascend before Thee with acceptance. Hallow my thoughts;—sanctify my affections; raise me above the seen and the temporal, and enable me to hold converse with the unseen and the infinite.

I bless Thee for that free and glorious gift of everlasting life, which Thou hast given me in Thy dear Son. May

I freely and lovingly receive it—as it is freely and lovingly offered. Lord, I believe, help Thou mine unbelief! May I be enabled to see in Jesus the very Saviour I need,—the Physician who healeth all my diseases. To His precious blood I look for pardon—to His supporting grace for strength—to His tender sympathy for solace. Give me the present blessedness of those whose iniquities are forgiven and whose sins are covered. May I know the truth and reality of the words, "We which have believed *do* enter into rest:"—"He that believeth on the Son *hath* everlasting life." Give me the preparatory rest of grace here, which is the prelude and pledge of the eternal rest of glory hereafter. Fill me even now with all peace and joy in believing, that I may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Ghost.

With that everlasting life begun, which is to be perfected and consummated above, may I purify myself even

as Christ is pure. Enable me to live worthy of so glorious a heritage. Deliver me from the enthralling power and bondage of sin in every form. As a temple of the Holy Ghost, may I be kept from whatever would defile or desecrate its hallowed courts. Preserve me from the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eye, and the pride of life,—from the power of all carnal appetites and corrupt affections. Guard the springs of thought and will. Prevent me from harbouring or indulging unrighteous desires. In all I do, may I put on charity which is the bond of perfectness. Having the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, may I sit at the feet of Him who pleased not Himself.

I pray for all my dear friends:—number them among Thy believing children:—make them heirs of this same everlasting kingdom. Let none be guilty of procrastination in the things which belong to their eternal peace. Let none

be beguiled by the delusion of a death-bed repentance;—beginning the watch when the summons comes to leave the watchtower;—seeking a living Saviour for the first time at a dying hour: but may we all be living habitually in that state of preparedness, that when the midnight cry shall be heard, we may be ready with the response, "Even so—come, Lord Jesus!" Lo! this is our God, we have waited for Him!

Let the dew which descended on the mountains of Zion descend on every branch of Thy Church universal. Let a season of reviving and refreshing come from Thine own immediate presence. Build Thou the walls of Jerusalem. Soon may there be voices heard saying, "The kingdoms of this world are become the one kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ."

Look in tender love on the children of sorrow. If Thou hast been recently *impressing* upon any the solemn lesson

regarding the present life, that it is even as a vapour which appeareth for a little moment and then vanisheth away, let them rejoice in the glorious reversion they have in life everlasting; that beyond the dissolution of the earthly tabernacle, the eye of faith can rest on a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Comfort the fatherless, the widow, the poor also, and him that hath no helper. Even when the footsteps of a God of love fail to be traced—may there be implicit trust in the wisdom and rectitude of inscrutable dealings.

I anew supplicate Thy forgiveness for the sins of the by-past day, and commit myself to Thy gracious protection and guardianship during the silent watches of another night. And all I ask is for Jesus' sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

17TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood."—ROM. iii. 25.

The Great Propitiation.

MOST Blessed God, Father of all mercies and God of all grace, do Thou hear in heaven Thy dwelling-place these my morning supplications. When Thou hearest forgive, and grant me an answer in peace.

Thou hast mercifully guarded me during the unconscious hours of slumber—permitting me to lie down in sleep and to awake in safety. And now that I am about to enter on the duties and engagements—it may be the temptations and trials—of a new day, I would invoke Thy presence. Vouchsafe me Thy benediction and blessing. If God be for me, who can be against me? I will go in the strength of the Lord God, *making* mention of Thy righteousness.

Blessed be Thy name for the Great Propitiation—that I can look away from myself, and my own guilty doings, to Him who has done all, and suffered all, and procured all for me. Oh sprinkle the lintels and door-posts of my heart with the covenant token. Countless multitudes have already washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, and are now before Thy Throne the trophies and monuments of redeeming grace and love. To His cross I desire anew, in simple faith, to look; to the horns of that bloodstained altar I desire anew to cling. I *have* no other Saviour, and blessed be Thy name, I *need* no other. Gracious Redeemer, Thou art *able* to save and *willing* to save to the uttermost. Thou hast a balm for every wound; an antidote for every sorrow. To whom can I go but unto Thee, Thou hast the words of eternal life.

May I be enabled, this day, to bear

about with me the dying of the Lord Jesus. May that blood of sprinkling purge my conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Vouchsafe the quickening energy of Thy Holy Spirit, to disarm the power of temptation—to dethrone self—to deliver from the seductive influences of the world. Keep me from the intoxication of success—the pride and alienation of prosperity. Keep me from undue depression and guilty murmuring in adversity. Forbid that I should ever take encouragement to sin from abounding grace;—but be led, rather, thus to judge, that if one died for all, then all were dead, and in that He died, He died that they who live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him who died for them and rose again. Impart to me increasing aspirations after that holiness of heart and life without which no man can see the Lord. Thus continuing, from day to day, in the enjoy-

ment of Thy fear and favour, when I come to die, may I be enabled to fall asleep in Jesus—in the blissful hope of a glorious immortality.

Let every blessing I ask for myself, be largely bestowed on all near and dear to me. Seal, to each of them, a saving interest in the blessings of the everlasting covenant. As the beloved of the Lord may they dwell safely. Let not one be found wanting on the day when Thou makest up Thy jewels.

Speed the gospel through the nations of the earth. Give Thy faithful servants everywhere grace to proclaim, in all its fulness, Thine own glorious message—the only remedy for a ruined world—peace through the blood of the cross. Arise, Lord, and plead Thine own cause. Hasten the day, when the Prince of Peace shall be welcomed to the Throne of universal empire, and when all the ends of the world shall see the salvation of our God. Bless all Thy

churches at home. Imbue Thy ministering servants with the healthful spirit of Thy grace. Restore the lost; reclaim the backslider; comfort the mourner; succour the tempted; support the sick; sustain the dying. Bless the young. Enable them to lay the green ears of early consecration on Thy holy altar, and to cry, "My Father, Thou shalt be the guide of our youth." Bless manhood in its prime. May the best energies of soul and body be willingly surrendered to Thy service. Bless old age. May the hoary head be a crown of glory, found in the way of righteousness.

I ask these and all other needed blessings in the name of Him whom Thou hearest always; who hath loved me, and washed me from my sins in His own precious blood; Jesus Christ—my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO *INTO THEM*, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

17TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ."—1 COR. xv. 55, 56, 57.

Victory over Death.

O GOD, I desire, as the Gates of the evening are again closing around me, to draw near into Thy gracious presence, adoring Thee as the God of my life, in whose hands is the breath of every living thing. Thou hast watched over me during another day—protecting me from danger, guarding me from temptation, preventing me with the blessings of Thy goodness. I thank Thee for this great gift of being,—that I am still this night among the living to praise Thee, while others have slept the sleep of death.

Thou art ever giving impressive intimations and remembrances of our

frailty and mortality. As for man his days are as grass: as the flower of the field so he flourisheth. The wind passeth over it and it is gone, and the place that once knew it knows it no more. I bless Thee that as by man came death, by man came also the resurrection from the dead. Adored be Thy name, that we can look, through the bars of the grave, on hopes full of immortality, and hear the voice of the divine Redeemer saying, "Fear not; I am he that liveth and was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore, and have the keys of the grave and of death:" —"I am the resurrection and the life, he that liveth and believeth on me shall never die." I bless Thee that in His cross and passion victory has been obtained over the King of terrors; that to all His true people the portals of death have been transformed into the gate of heaven, and that in His resurrection *they have* the pledge and earnest of

their own. Grant me now, O God, a saving interest in all those spiritual blessings He died to purchase, and which He is exalted to bestow; that thus I may be enabled to look forward with calmness and fortitude to the hour of departure, whenever and wherever Thou seest meet to call me hence. May I be so living in near and conscious fellowship with Him, that when the summons of death comes, it may be to me like an angel whispering—"The Master is come, and calleth for thee."

While I bear about with me continually the dying of the Lord Jesus, may the life also of Jesus be made manifest in my mortal flesh. May it be my habitual aspiration, that my character be a reflection of His—in its gentleness and meekness—its purity and unselfishness—its benevolence and sympathy. In life, doing His will and imbibing His spirit; in death, ready to use His words of filial trust and self-

surrender, "Father, into Thy hand I commend my spirit."

I pray for any who may be living unready for the great change—lulling themselves in self-security, or risking their hopes for eternity on a deathbed repentance. Let them no longer remain in a state of guilt and danger; but lead them to know, in this their day, the things that belong to their peace, before they are for ever hid from their eyes.

Bless all near and dear to me. May they be united to Thee and to one another, in the bonds of the everlasting covenant. May their lives now be hid with Christ in God, that when their last summons also comes, they may have nothing to do but to die, and to wake up in glory everlasting.

Look in great kindness on all who are in anywise afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or estate. May those who are mourning their loved and lost, be *enabled* to sorrow, not as others who

have no hope: for if they believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, them also which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with Him. We pray for those who are drawing near to the gates of death. May the unwavering eye of faith be directed to death's great Abolisher. In Him, may they see the last enemy vanquished and the grave spoiled. Let them plead Thy promise with unfaltering hope, "O death, I will be thy plagues: O grave, I will be thy destruction."

Pity a fallen world, still under the ghastly dominion of sin and death. Hasten the time when its ashen robes shall be laid aside. Destroy the kingdom of Satan, which is the kingdom of disorder, and set up the kingdom of Christ, which is the kingdom of peace. Bless Thy Church everywhere. May the anointing oil, poured on her great Head, flow down to the skirts of her garments. Rouse all slumbering and

lifeless churches with Thine own summons—"Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee life:"—"Be watchful and strengthen the things that remain which are ready to die." Oh give us all, as individual believers, grace to be up and doing, cultivating a wakeful vigilance—living dying lives;—remembering, that as death leaves us, so will judgment and eternity find us, and that as the tree falleth, so must it lie.

Watch over me, this night, during the unconscious hours of slumber. Grant me the sleep of Thy beloved; and when I awake, may I be still with Thee. And all I ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

18TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help."—Hos. xiii. 9.

Destruction and Help.

O GOD, who hast mercifully permitted me to see the light and to enjoy the comforts of a new day, draw near in Thine infinite mercy this morning, and bestow upon me Thy blessing. Open to me the Gates of Righteousness; I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord. As the sun of the outer world once more shines, may the better Sun of Righteousness arise upon me with healing in His beams—dispersing all the clouds of sin and unbelief, and revealing the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Lord, I have reason to mourn my manifold sins,—my disobedience and unbelief—my ingratitude and rebellion. I am a wonder to myself—self-destroyer

that I am—that Thou hast spared m
that Thou hast not, long ere now,
nounced against me the cumbe
sentence, and executed against me
cumberer's righteous doom. It is
cause Thou art God and not man,
despite of all I have done to merit
just displeasure, Thine anger is tu
away, and Thy hand of mercy and
and compassion is stretched out sti

Gracious Saviour, Thy divine er
in coming into our world was to
that which was lost. The Son of
came not to destroy men's lives, bu
save them. All my trust is in
finished work, and glorious atonem
and everlasting righteousness, and
tinual intercession. *Thou* canst
and *Thou* alone! I have no help
no hope in myself. Blessed be
name for Thine own gracious and
couraging assurance—"In ME is
help." A humble and humbled
pliant at the Gates of prayer, I w

utter the simple cry of faith which of old came from the lips of a believing petitioner—"Lord, help me." May I receive also the gracious response, "Be it unto thee even as thou wilt." Thou art willing to bestow every needed blessing—pardoning grace—sustaining grace—strengthening grace—sanctifying grace — comforting grace — grace, until grace is no longer needed, but is lost and swallowed up in glory. O Thou who givest "more grace," hide me deeper in the clefts of the smitten Rock. Other refuge I have none—my helpless soul depends entirely on Thee. *Lord*, save me, else I perish. Save me, I beseech Thee, not only from the guilt but from the power of sin. Save me from the corruptions of my own heart—from the seductive influences of the world—from the temptations that may be incident to my secular duties and engagements. Save me from the sin that doth more easily

beset me—save me from bringing dishonour on Thy holy cause and Thy holy name, by my inconsistent conduct or uneven walk; save me, oh, save me, from the wrath to come!

Compassionate a lost world. Pity the careless, reclaim the backsliding, remove every impediment to the spread of Thy truth;—that all the ends of the earth may soon see the salvation of God.

O Thou Help of the helpless—Friend of the friendless—Portion of the portionless—Father of the fatherless—regard with pitying eye Thy suffering children. There are unnamed griefs—unspoken sorrows—which cannot be whispered into human ears. They can alone be unburdened and confided to Thee. Say to each and all such, "I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you." In the multitude of the sorrows in their hearts may Thy comforts delight their souls.

Give to those related to me by the ties of kindred or affection, that same promised and needed help this day. Protect and defend them by Thy mighty power, and may all their doings be ordered by Thy governance, that they may do alway that which is righteous in Thy sight. Sanctify Thy true people in body, soul, and spirit; and present them at last faultless before the presence of Thy glory with exceeding joy.

I anew commit myself to Thy gracious keeping and direction. May the Eternal God this day be my refuge, and underneath me the everlasting arms. And all I ask, is in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

18TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."—MATT. xi. 28.

Rest in Jesus.

O GOD, I desire to approach Thy presence, on this the close of another day, through this most blessed Gateway. Gracious Redeemer, Thou who hast finished transgression, and made an end of sin, and made reconciliation for iniquity, and brought in an everlasting righteousness; —who Thyself, having overcome the sharpness of death, hast opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers;—draw near, as Thou didst to Thy disciples of old when it was toward evening and the day was far spent, and grant me Thy benediction. Heaven and earth may pass away, but never will that promise be altered, that coming to Thee, weary and heavy laden, Thou wilt *give rest* and peace to the burdened

soul. I rejoice that in Thee the conflict was endured and the victory won;—that there is no sin too great for Thy compassion—no case too extreme for Thy succour—no sorrow too trivial for Thy sympathy—no tempest-tossed soul that cannot listen to Thy "Peace be still." Fill me with Thine own bequeathed gift of peace—the peace which passeth understanding — peace through the blood of Thy cross. Looking to Thy completed atonement—the fulness of Thy grace—the plenitude of Thy love —the perpetuity of Thy covenant blessings—may I be able to say, "Return unto thy rest, O my soul, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee:"—"This is the rest whereby Thou dost cause the weary to rest, and this is the refreshing." Fill me with all joy and peace in believing, that I may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Lord, quicken my dormant and lan-

guid affections. May I not only bear continually about with me the dying of the Lord Jesus, but may the life also of Jesus be made manifest in my mortal flesh. May it be my constant aim and endeavour, while resting in His love, to be imbibing His spirit and following His footsteps; obeying His will whether by active obedience or by passive endurance; that at last I may be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless, and pass from the rest of grace to the eternal rest of glory.

I bless Thee, Lord, for the mercies of the by-gone day. If, in the prosecution of my worldly duties and avocations, I have been kept from sin and preserved from temptation, it is all Thy doing. Graciously be with me in all time to come; clothe me with the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left. Let me trust Thee in the dark. Keep me from over solicitude and anxiety about the future. Keep

me humble, thankful, contented: keep me from being deceived with fictitious good—from coveting blessings which are not blessings. Let my prayer be that of Jabez—"O that *Thou* wouldst bless me indeed." Whatever be the niche in Thy temple I am called to occupy, may I fill it joyfully and with a glad heart, cherishing a sense of solemn responsibility. May I know that duty becomes a delight when done for Thee. Direct my heart into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ; that so, when my summons does come to enter into rest, I may be ready to pass from my appointed work on earth, to engage in the ceaseless activities of the glorified.

Lord, look down in infinite compassion on all who need Thy consolations. May those who are in spiritual trouble, anxiety, and disquietude,—who may be going about seeking rest and finding none, be brought to seat themselves at

the feet of Jesus—clothed and in their right mind. May those who are laid on beds of pain and sickness, manifest unmurmuring submission to Thy holy will. May those stretched on beds of death, be enabled to fall asleep sweetly in Jesus. Encircle them with the bow of Thy Covenant mercy. As they pass through the dark valley, may Thy precious promises cluster like winged angels around their pillows; and may the Saviour's words bear to them a blessed meaning and significance they never had before, "Come unto Me, and I will give you rest." Amid all tossings and tribulations, may Thine afflicted children see in every trial, only the appointed billow to waft their bark nearer the haven, and may they sing amid the storm—"*So* giveth He His beloved rest."

Let Thy Church anew be baptized with Pentecostal fire. Spirit of the living God! Thou Spirit of light and *Spirit* of burning, kindle into new life

every decaying flame—feed every lamp with the oil of Thy grace—and may the golden candlestick with all its branches shine for Thy glory, and radiate to the ends of the earth.

I commend my dear friends to Thy friendship. Make them the objects of Thy sovereign care, and the subjects of Thy redeeming love. May the Lord watch between us when we are absent one from another; and listening together now to the Saviour's words of welcome from the Throne of grace, may it be ours at last to listen to His words of welcome from the Throne of glory, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." And all I ask is for His sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

19TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"By me if any man enter in, he shall be saved."—JOHN x. 9.

The one Entrance.

O GOD, I desire, this morning, to approach by the one only Gateway to Thy presence. Enable me to hear the voice of the Great Angel Intercessor—the mighty Prince who has power with God and prevails, saying, "By me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." I come pleading that Name which soothes all sorrows, heals all wounds, dries all tears; which is manna to the hungry soul, and rest to the weary. How many are now in Glory, testifying to the boundless stores of grace hid in Christ. In the plenitude of that same mercy I would still exult. I rejoice that His name is called Jesus, because He saves His people from their sins.

I desire to acknowledge my great

unworthiness;—my constant and grievous departures from the path of Thy commandments. I have gone astray like a lost sheep, following too much the devices and the desires of my own heart. Thou mightest have righteously excluded me for ever from the green pastures and still waters, and left me to pursue my own devious wanderings. But blessed be Thy name, in the midst of abounding sin there is abounding grace: the Good Shepherd—He who gave His own life for the sheep, is still waiting to be gracious,—not willing that any should perish, but that all should come unto Him and live.

Lord, reveal to me, more and more, the infinite evil of sin—the ingratitude of such requitals of Thy love and resistings of Thy Spirit. Turn Thou me and I shall be turned, for Thou art the Lord my God. Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk, for I lift up my soul unto Thee. May I have the habi-

tual feeling that I am only safe when following the footsteps and leadings of the Great Shepherd of the flock. May the realising sense of His presence and nearness sweeten all joy and alleviate all sorrow. May I know that sorrow is turned into joy with the conscious possession of His friendship, and that joy would be sorrow if bereft of that favour which is life. Keep me pure—protect me from temptation—preserve me unspotted from the world. Give me the habit of a holy life. May my affections be more entirely surrendered to Thee. Whatsoever I do, enable me to do it heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men, and to have the growing experience that Thy service is perfect freedom.

I would desire to set out, this morning, under the protection of the Shepherd of Israel, who leadeth Joseph like a flock. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep me this day without sin. May the in-

spired saying form the directory of my conduct—may it act as a holy preservative in all time of temptation, and a blessed incentive and stimulus in pursuing the path of obedience—"If ye live after the flesh ye shall die, but if ye, through the Spirit, do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Prevent me being betrayed into anger, or resentment, or uncharitableness. Make me gentle and amiable, kind and forgiving;—remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, "A new commandment I give unto you that ye love one another." May it be my desire to lay out whatever humble talents Thou hast conferred upon me, for Thy glory and for my neighbour's good—having a mind intent on pleasing Thee.

Hasten the time when all shall avail themselves of the one all-glorious entrance; when, as there is but one Shepherd, so there shall be but one flock: when at the name of Jesus every knee

shall bow. Set faithful watchmen on the towers of Zion, who will not keep silence, until Jerusalem be made a praise throughout the earth. Arise, O God, and plead Thine own cause.

While in the personal enjoyment of health and many outward comforts, I would intercede, this morning, in behalf of the poor, the afflicted, the sorrowful, the bereaved, and the dying. May they look to God their Maker who giveth songs in the night. May the poor be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom of heaven. May sick ones be upheld by Thy everlasting arms: may bereaved ones be cheered with the thought of eternal reunions: may dying ones exult in the name of Jesus; may the music of that name refresh their souls as they pass through the dark valley. When I hear of others summoned, in the twinkling of an eye, to render in their final account—oh *may* I seek to be myself dying daily;

—realising my position as standing each moment on the brink of immortality. With my loins girded and my lamp burning, may I not be ashamed before Christ at His coming.

Anew I commend myself, and all near and dear to me, to Thee. "Sun of my soul" shine upon my pathway. May no "earthborn cloud arise," to obscure the brightness of Thy reconciled countenance. Guide me this day, and every day, by Thy good counsel while I live; and afterward receive me into glory. For the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

19TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go."—ISA. xlviii. 17.

Wise Teaching. O GOD, who dost accept the feeblest attempt to serve Thee, receive this my evening sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise. I adore Thee as "God only wise." Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne—mercy and truth go continually before Thy face. I bless Thee that every moment of my existence I am under Thy loving guidance. The thread of life is in Thy hand. I am no judge of what is best for me:—often would I choose the evil and refuse the good. But Thou art ever faithful and unerring. Thou leadest me, not in my own way, but in the way that I ought to go. May it be mine, amid every vicissitude, to recognise infinite wisdom in all Thine

allotments ;—to sit at the feet of the Great Teacher, contented with the assurance, "This also cometh from the Lord of Hosts, who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in working." Blessed be Thy name for Thy wise teaching in the past ;—for all the deliverances Thou hast vouchsafed in times of danger—for all the help in times of trouble—for all the succour in times of temptation. I would desire implicitly to trust Thee in the future. There is no corruption but what Thy grace will enable me to subdue ;—there is no cross but what Thy grace will enable me to carry ;—there is no foe but Thy grace will enable me to conquer.

I come to Thee, this night, with all my heavy burdens. Deliver me from the burden and the bondage,—from the love, and practice, and dominion, of sin : —from unbelieving thoughts and disquieting doubts and apprehensions ;—from the tyranny of self ;—from the fear

of death and what is after death. May I jealously guard every avenue by which temptation may assail me,—keeping watch and ward over the treachery of my own deceitful heart. Let me cherish habitual mindfulness that time is fleeting. Let not the calls of an engrossing world without, foster the procrastinating spirit within. If others indulge in slumber, may it be mine to be vigilant. If others venture to trifle and tamper with convictions, may it be mine to maintain the testimony of a good conscience; and, uninfluenced by earthly fascinations and seductions, to pursue the path of heavenly obedience. Hold Thou me up and I shall be safe. Mould my heart in conformity with Thy holy will. May duty become a delight when performed for Thee. Give me intensified earnestness in Thy service, as well as a greater desire to benefit my fellow-men. Take away all that is unamiable, and implant all that is gener-

ous, and beneficent, and kind. May I strive to be pure and sincere in speech, —honourable and upright in transaction, —temperate in the use of lawful enjoyment. And thus, whatsoever I do, whether in word or in deed, may I be enabled to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Bless Thy Church throughout the world. It is our comfort to know, amid the blindness and errors, the mistakes and prejudices of human instructors, that she is under wise and infallible teaching with Thee. Hasten the day when all within her pale will come to see eye to eye, and unite their now discordant voices in a blended song of praise. Bound up in the bundle of life, may Thy true people, by whatever name known, be gathered, at last, by the reaper-angels, into the one heavenly garner.

To an all-wise God I would specially commend the children of sorrow, and

any in whom I may be more deeply interested. Lord, sanctify to them the dealings of Thy providence. May they see in their afflictions errands of love in disguise. May they recognise Thy hand alike in bestowing the gifts and in revoking the grant;—trusting the wisdom they cannot trace. Knowing that Thou leadest them by the way they should go, may they write over the most mysterious of Thy dispensations, "He for our profit, that we may be made partakers of His holiness."

Anew I commend myself to Thy keeping this night. Forgive the sins of the day which is now closing. Guard me during my sleeping as well as my waking hours. And grant that I may wake up finally, from the sleep of death, to glory everlasting. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

20TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"As for God, his way is perfect."—PS. xviii. 30.

The sure Guide.

O GOD, I bless Thee that Thou hast spared me to see the light of another day, and once more permitted me to approach the morning gate of prayer. "My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord. In the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up."

I thank Thee, Heavenly Father, that from day to day and from hour to hour I am under Thy wise and loving direction:—that it is Thou who settest up the waymarks, and appointest the bounds of my habitation. The lot may be cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord. If left to my own self, I would often choose the evil and refuse the good;—I might select what was selfish and perilous and sinful;—what might compromise my

peace of conscience, and endanger my spiritual interests. I have often erred in the past, pursuing at times devious paths on which Thy blessing could not rest. I would desire to take Thee more as my guide and counsellor for the future. Let me follow Thee wholly, —trusting Thee, even where I fail to trace Thee;—amid all vicissitudes and perplexities, hearing Thy voice behind me saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it;" and writing over every dubious path—every mysterious Providence—"As for God, His way is perfect." I know that all Thy dealings are dictated by unerring wisdom and unchangeable love. I would look forward, with joyful confidence, to that great Day of disclosures, when the now sealed roll shall be unfolded, and when every tongue will be brought to confess, "The Lord was righteous in all His ways and holy in all His works." Meanwhile, with the fear of God within me, and the eye

of God above me, and the Heaven of God before me, may I prosecute steadfastly my pilgrim-way — going up through the wilderness leaning on Thine arm; and then, though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear—for greater is He that is with me, and for me, than all they that can be against me.

Lord, wash me anew, this morning, in the Fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness. Give me the renewed sense of Thy pardoning love in Christ. Regenerate me by the indwelling of Thy gracious Spirit. I pray not that Thou shouldst take me out of the world, but that Thou wouldst keep me from the evil. Disengage me from all that is perilous in its engrossments and fascinations. May I be moulded by the kind and loving precepts of Thy holy gospel. Knowing Thy will, may I delight to do it because it is Thine. Let me not lapse into a selfish disregard of

the claims of others, but strive to be, in some feeble measure, useful in my day and generation: following in this the "perfect way" of Him, who went about continually doing good. May I do nothing I would wish to have cancelled and undone at a dying hour. But be so living and walking and acting, that when that solemn season does arrive,—at peace with Thee, in charity with all mankind, and in humble, steadfast reliance on the merits of the Divine Redeemer, I may fall asleep.

I pray for the sick—the afflicted—the sorrowful—the bereaved—the lonely—the dying. Accommodate the supplies of Thy grace to their varied necessities. In patience may they possess their souls. Amid the changes of the world and the instability of earth's best props and refuges—amid the tossings and heavings of this treacherous sea of life, may they cling to the sure anchorage, "As for God, His way is perfect."

Lord, compassionate a world lying in wickedness. Listen to that perpetual dirge of woe which is ascending from suffering humanity. Ease the heavy burdens, and let the oppressed go free. Emancipate the nations from the thraldom of Satanic sway. Let every power unto destruction be vanquished and overthrown by "the power of God unto salvation." May the gospel of Christ be mighty as ever to the pulling down of strongholds. Prosper all evangelistic efforts at home—prosper the cause of missions abroad. Beautiful upon many mountains may the feet be of them that bring good tidings. May the Lord Himself give the word, and great shall be the company of those that publish it.

I pray for all my beloved friends. I rejoice that, morning by morning and evening by evening, we can meet in spirit at Thy holy altar, mingling our petitions and thanksgivings and confes-

sions together. May our united supplications load the cloud of mercy, and cause it to burst in blessings on our heads.

And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in Thee. Give Thine angels charge concerning me, that they may encamp round about me and bear me up in all my ways. If there be arduous duties before me to-day, make them easy. Level every mountain of difficulty:—remove every threatening temptation—prevent me with the blessings of Thy goodness. "Show me Thy ways, O Lord, teach me Thy paths; lead me in Thy truth and teach me, for Thou art the God of my salvation, on Thee do I wait all the day." And when all Thy teachings and all Thy leadings are completed on earth, do Thou receive me into Thine everlasting kingdom and glory, through Jesus Christ my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

20TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."
HEB. xii. 14.

Holiness of Heart.

HEAVENLY FATHER, I come to the footstool of Thy throne this night, desiring to remember that Thou art holy. In bestowing the golden key of admission into Thy presence, these are Thy words of invitation and welcome—"Open ye the gates, that the righteous, which keepeth the truth, may enter in." If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me. May it be mine to enjoy and appropriate Thy gracious beatitude and benediction, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Come, Lord, and search me—come and try me—come and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Enable me ever to bear in mind the solemn attestation Thou hast given, in the atoning work of Thy dear Son, as to the holiness of Thy nature and the rectitude of Thy law. On the cross of Him who was made sin for us though He knew no sin, is the superscription written, "Thou lovest righteousness and hatest wickedness." As the pure and spotless beings who surround Thy throne contemplate the great mystery of godliness, their continual cry and ascription is, "Holy, holy, holy." Blessed be Thy name, that in Jesus Thou art the just God and yet the Saviour. I can exult in the assurance that the holiest of all Beings is also the kindest and the best of all.

Lord, make me holy as Thou art holy, and pure as Thou art pure. While I look to Christ in His perfect oblation as my Saviour from sin's penalty, may I look to Him also as my great example. Let me catch the inspiration of His

holy life. Give me grace to tread in His footsteps—to imbibe His spirit, and to reflect His image. Let me love, as He did, whatever is virtuous and benevolent and good; subordinating my own ways and wishes to the will of my Father in heaven; patient under injury —submissive under trial. May I be the possessor of that inner peace—the sunshine of a good conscience—which makes me independent of all outer disquietudes and troubles: singleness of eye, purity of heart, integrity of purpose, consecration of life. Remove every hindrance to spiritual growth. May I take that, alike as a precept and a promise, "Sin shall not have dominion over you." Thus may I have the character of heaven, in its holiness, impressed upon me on this side of death, that, on the other side of death, I may be fitted for its lofty companionships and joys.

Especially, Lord, do Thou guard and

shield me in my worldly intercourse. Leaven the common duties of life with Thy fear. On my business and avocations may there be inscribed, "Holiness to the Lord." Whatever I do, may I do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men. Keep me from whatever has a tendency to foster the selfish element in my nature. May I cherish no purposes but what Thou wilt own, and employ no means but what Thou wilt bless. May I know that holy living will lead to happy dying. Oh may I be so living from day to day, that when I come at last to resign the great trust of existence, I may be enabled to say, "Now, Lord, lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace."

Bless all my beloved relatives:—bring them also to the cross of the Redeemer, that while they learn there how righteous Thou art, they may there too "give thanks at the remembrance of Thy holiness." Make them partakers of the

holy character and resurrection-life of the risen Saviour,—purifying themselves even as He is pure,—that at His second coming in the glory of His Father, they may be prepared to welcome Him with joy.

Look in compassion on poor afflicted ones. Let them trust and not be afraid; believing that all is well, just because it is Thy blessed will. May they know that every sorrow is numbered and appointed by the Man of Sorrows. May they feel how light and trivial their bitterest cup is, compared with the cup of suffering He so willingly drained for them.

Bless Thy Church everywhere:—refresh it with the dews of heaven. Sanctify and cleanse it, that it may be presented at last a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing,—holy and without blemish.

I commend myself anew to Thy watchful keeping this night, O Thou

Holy One of Israel. Forgive the sins of the day, in thought, word, and deed. Give Thine angels charge concerning me that they may encamp round about me; and if it be Thy will to spare me till to-morrow, fit me for all its duties.

These needful blessings which I have asked, and others equally needed and urgent which I have omitted to ask, do Thou bestow upon me in the all-prevailing name of Him in whom all fulness dwells; and to whom with Thee the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed all praise and honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

21st Morning.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."—Heb. vii. 25.

Salvation to the uttermost.

O Lord, I desire to draw near into Thy merciful presence as to a most loving Father, and joyfully pay my morning sacrifice. Glory be to Thee for watching over me during another night, giving me the refreshment of sleep, and permitting me to awake in health and strength. May this be to me the emblem of a better waking in the morning of immortality, to partake with Thyself of endless life.

All my trust is in the atoning sacrifice of the Great High Priest—the covenant Angel at Thy right hand—the ever-living, ever-loving Intercessor, who is pleading the cause I cannot plead for myself, and who never pleads in vain.

May He receive my imperfect prayers into His fragrant censer;—that all unworthy in themselves, sprinkled with the incense of His adorable merits, they may ascend with acceptance before the Throne.

Most Gracious God, how insensible have I proved to the multiplied tokens of Thy love and kindness. Thy mercies have been unworthily requited, my duties have been perfunctorily performed. Corruption within has responded to temptation from without. There has been too often pride where there should have been humility—resentment where there should have been forgiveness—unbelief where there should have been trust—murmuring where there should have been submission and resignation. For Thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity, for it is great. A sinner to the uttermost, I rejoice that, in Thy dear Son, there is salvation to the uttermost. "If any

man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;—and He is the Propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." I rejoice in Him as the very Saviour I need. While omnipotence slumbers in His arm, He is touched with a fellow-feeling for all my infirmities. He can enter, with tender sensitiveness, into every temptation that crosses my path, and into every pang that rends my heart. O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world, have mercy upon me! O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world, grant me Thy peace! This is Thy name and Thy memorial throughout all generations, "Mighty to save." I would lay hold anew on the blood besprinkled horns of the altar; and listen to Thy voice of power and grace and love saying, "Your sins which are many are all forgiven you."

Vouchsafe to me, I beseech Thee,

salvation from the power, as well as from the guilt, of sin. This is Thy will concerning me, even my sanctification. Keep me from all hardness of heart and contempt of Thy holy word and commandment,—from envy and malice —from pride and vain-glory—from vanity and lies—from tampering with temptation in any form, and thus endangering my present peace and imperilling my soul's everlasting interests. Guard every loophole by which any spiritual foe might enter. Give me resolute energy of will, to resist and to endure as seeing Him who is invisible. I rejoice that, in the extremity of my own weakness, I have the promise of Almighty strength, and that too "abundantly above all that I can ask or think." I can do all things through Christ strengthening me. In the calm and assured hope of forgiveness in Him,—a saving interest in His great salvation; and with the promised aids of the Holy Spirit, may I

go from strength to strength, from grace to grace, from virtue to virtue, from attainment to attainment, until at length I appear before Thee perfect in Zion.

I pray for those who are bartering so great salvation for the sins and the follies of a fleeting present. Convince them, ere it be too late, of their danger, and discover to them the one thing needful, the better part—the only part, that never can be taken from them. Bring all men to a knowledge of Thy gospel, —to a saving belief of the truth as it is in Jesus. Send times of refreshing unto Zion. Bless Thy faithful ministers:—may they be valiant for the truth—polished shafts in their Master's quiver. May the day soon arrive when the glory of God shall be the supreme sovereign motive, governing every thought and feeling and action. May our own nation, as heretofore, continue the honoured instrument of advancing Thy cause on earth—a dispenser and almo-

ner of spiritual blessings. M
precious privileges civil and r
bequeathed to her, be handed d
impaired from generation to gen

Pity the case of the sick, th
tute, and the bereaved. O Th
when on earth didst turn asi
Thine own path of suffering,
with those that wept, do Tho
all afflicted ones. Let them l
yond the cloudy present to the
less skies of that better land, wl
pang of sorrow can neither be
feared. Lying passive in Thy
may it be theirs through their
say, "Father, glorify Thy name

I anew commend myself, an
near and dear to me, to Thee an
word of Thy grace. Lord, ever
me so to pass through things te
that finally I lose not the things
And all I ask is for Jesus' sake.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ;
INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LOR

21st Evening.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him."—Nahum i. 7.

The Stronghold in Trouble.

O God, I come this night to the Gates of this glorious stronghold. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust: my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I rejoice in the assurance that Thou art good. Thou art a refuge in the day of perplexity—a strength in the day of weakness—a light in the day of darkness—a stronghold in the day of trouble. May I feel it to be a privilege to draw near unto Thee. Give me filial trust and confidence. Enable me to unburden, without reserve, into Thine ear, all my trials and difficulties. A suppliant at the Gates of prayer, may I receive fresh tokens of Thy love and

goodness,—even the blessing which maketh rich and addeth no sorrow with it. The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, unto the soul that seeketh Him.

How unworthy, Lord, I am of Thy paternal regard and patient forbearance! How much have I done to forfeit Thy favour! I have been rebellious and wayward—unthankful and unholy;—leaving too often Thy countless mercies unacknowledged—dethroning Thee from my affections, and giving to others the loyalty and allegiance which should be Thine alone. I have experienced little of the depressing consciousness, I ought to have had, of my sin and danger, and of my need of a Saviour. I have little realised, as I ought to have done, the thought of death, and of the precarious tenure which binds me to the world's best blessings. Thou hast, from time to time, been putting lover and friend far from me, and mine acquaint-

ance into darkness; yet I have been travelling as if with my back to the grave, keeping it out of sight. Careful and troubled about earth's many things, I have been sadly prone to forget the one thing needful.

Give me deep contrition for an erring past. Inspire me with new resolutions for the future. Graciously vouchsafe me Thy help. Lord, I feel that this struggling with sin, this conflict with temptation, is a hopeless contest without Thee—without Thy strengthening, sustaining, restraining grace. Hold Thou me up. Thou who hast revealed Thyself to Thy people, in all past ages, as a stronghold in the day of trouble and a shield in the day of battle,—be my defence, and my glory, the lifter up of my head. I can overcome, only through the blood and the help of the Lamb. Anew I repair, this night, to the clefts of the Rock;—anew I take refuge in the only sheltering stronghold;—anew I

seek the light and direction of the only safe guiding pillar. Keep my eye single, that my whole body may be full of light. May all my duties and avocations be transfigured by the elevating Christian motive, "Whatsoever ye do, whether in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." Let it be my habitual aim to imbibe His meek, lowly, patient, unworldly spirit;—not seeking my own interests, but willing rather to cede these, if He be honoured and glorified;—endeavouring to bear and forbear, even under the conscious infliction and endurance of wrong. Enable me to put the best construction on motives and failings, giving heed to the monitory word—"Considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

Lord, have mercy on the afflicted. May they specially recognise Thee as a stronghold in the day of trouble. Knowing that finite wisdom has no place in *Thy* dealings, may they seek to bow

in unmurmuring submission to Thy holy will. Turn the shadow of death into the morning. Give them the sanctified use of Thy dispensations. May chastisement which, for the present, is not joyous but grievous, nevertheless afterward, yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness. Thou knowest them that trust in Thee. May they trust in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength; and amid present affliction and sadness, anticipate the time when voices will be heard saying, "There shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain—for the former things are passed away."

Bless my beloved friends. May they, too, trust in the name of the Lord, and stay themselves upon their God. If called at times to the endurance of trouble, may they know Thee and cling to Thee as a sure stronghold. Number each and all of them among the favoured

pilgrim band, who are now seeking Zion with their faces thitherward, and who shall finally reach it with everlasting joy upon their heads.

Take me, gracious Father, under Thy care and keeping. I will both lay me down in peace and sleep, for Thou, Lord, only makest me to dwell in safety. May I repose, as under the shadow of Thy wings; and may I wake to-morrow refreshed and invigorated for duty. Let each returning day of life find me better furnished and prepared for Thy service on earth, and at last for the enjoyment of Thy presence in glory. Through Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour, Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

22D MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"This is His name whereby He shall be called, The Lord our Righteousness."—JER. xxiii. 6.

The Lord our Righteousness.

O GOD, prepare my heart for approaching anew, this morning, the Beautiful Gate of Thy Temple. I come into Thy presence in the name of Him whom Thou hearest always, our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous. I rejoice that He who was dimly revealed in type and vision and prophecy, has been manifested as the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person;—that He became a sin-offering for us, though He knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Lord, I am utterly destitute of any righteousness of my own, and of any claim to Thy favour. Every hour I

live might be cited as a witness against me, telling of unrequited mercies—neglected opportunities—misimproved warnings—resisted grace. Look upon me not as I am in myself. Behold my shield:—look on the face of Thine anointed. My sole trust is in the doing and dying of the All-righteous One. I am absolved in Him. He has cancelled my debt and absorbed my curse; taken off my filthy garments, and clothed me in fresh raiment. May I be enabled to cleave to Him, in greater simplicity of heart and confidence, as the Lord my Righteousness. May His cross be my shelter; His wounds my healing; His death my life. I would go up and on through the wilderness, leaning on His arm; feeling that He who is with me and for me, is greater far than all that can be against me.

While I look to Him for the righteousness imputed,—I would look to the promised grace of the Holy Ghost, for

the righteousness implanted;—that holiness of heart and life, without which no man can see the Lord. May I put on the Lord Jesus Christ in the beauty of His divine character and example;—imbibing more of His spirit, and reflecting more of His image. Bestow upon me "the raiment clean and white, which is the righteousness of the saints;" and present me at last faultless before the presence of Thy glory with exceeding joy.

I know not what difficulties, or trials, or temptations, may be before me. Do Thou prepare me whether for duty or for conflict. May that glorious shield of righteousness cover my head in every day of battle. Knowing the treachery of the heart, I desire this morning, and each morning, to receive fresh supplies of Thy grace. Hold Thou up my goings in Thy paths; that thus, I may not be of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the

saving of the soul. Lord, bless me in all the relations and circumstances of my life. May I be a faithful steward in whatsoever has been entrusted to my keeping. If Thou hast given me worldly substance, may I regard these gifts of Providence as a talent, not to be selfishly appropriated, but to be shared by others, for their good and Thy glory. May all my business dealings and transactions be regulated by transparent honour—spotless integrity—unswerving love of truth. May my daily avocations prove incentives, not drags and hindrances, in running the Christian race. Give me that charity which is the bond of perfectness. May I seek to overcome evil with good; ever aiming at the more complete conquest of self,—subduing pride and restraining temper,—sitting meekly at the feet of Jesus.

Have pity on those who are sinning away their privileges. While they

"*have* the light,"—while they still enjoy gospel privileges—may they be led to "believe in the light;"—turning from every false ground of confidence, to Him who has made reconciliation for iniquity and brought in an everlasting righteousness, and who alone can give rest and peace to their souls. Extend Thy sympathy and love to the case of all in affliction;—succour, support, and comfort them. Let them manifest a spirit of uncomplaining submission, saying, "Not our will, but Thine be done!" May any who have been bereft of beloved friends, see in the removal of those near and dear to them, only the coming of the Saviour to fetch His children home, and to give them the promised lodgment in the "many mansions." May they rejoice in the happy assurance, that the silver cord on earth is loosed and the golden bowl broken, only to usher into the deathless joys of a world where friendships

cannot be severed, and trial can neither be felt nor feared.

I pray for all mankind. Look in compassion on earth's valley of vision. Behold the bones are very many and very dry. Come from the four winds, O Spirit of the living God!—breathe upon these slain that they may live. Clothe every moral desolation with the verdure of spiritual life. May the wilderness and the solitary place be made glad,—may the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose; and all the ends of the earth see the promised salvation.

I commend myself, and those belonging to me, to Thy keeping and protection throughout this day. Lift upon us the light of Thy countenance; never leave and never forsake us. And all I ask is for the Saviour's sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

22D EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ; (by grace ye are saved.)"—EPH. ii. 4, 5.

The Great Love.

MOST gracious and everlasting God, I desire to approach the footstool of Thy throne this evening, through the golden gates of mercy. Thou didst so love the world as to give Thine only-begotten Son. I adore the wonders of Thy sovereign grace in Him. Scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Under a grateful sense of the riches of that love, I would desire to compose myself to rest. O Thou Shepherd of

Israel, who never slumbers nor sleeps, do Thou guard me during the unconscious hours of night. May I rise refreshed for duty and service;—rejoicing to bear about with me, in the course of a new day, the elevating sense of my relationship to Thee, as my Covenant God and Heavenly Father. Saved by the grace and purchased by the blood of Jesus, may I yield Thee, not the constrained service of the bond-slave, but the spontaneous, devoted, love and obedience of Thine adopted child. May a sense of the infinite obligation under which I am laid for all Thy mercies, and specially for their crown and consummation on the Cross of Calvary, stimulate to greater ardour in running the Christian race;—to more singleness of eye and simplicity of aim. Saved by grace from the guilt of sin, may I ever remember that I am saved too by grace from the power of sin. Bring me to act more habitually under the influ-

ence of unseen realities. From the dominion of Satan—from the enslavement of lust and passion—from the absorbing love of the world—from the deceitfulness of riches—good Lord, deliver me! May the law of love, which has its highest exemplification in the life of Thy dear Son, find expression in my daily walk. May I be moulded, more and more, in conformity with His will, and copy more of His example—in His meekness and gentleness, in His unselfish and tender consideration for others. I have no ability in myself to carry out one good or holy resolution. Undertake Thou for me. If there be any indication of spiritual quickening or vitality within me, it is derived from Thee, the source and inspiration of all energy and goodness. I can do all things through Christ strengthening me. "More grace! more grace!" may this be my constant prayer. Hold Thou me up, and I shall be safe.

Prosper Thy cause and kingdom everywhere. Send times of refreshing unto Zion. May she rise from the dust, and put on her beautiful garments. Stand by all Thy faithful ministering servants. Clothe Thy priests with salvation, let Thy saints shout aloud for joy. May a spirit of unity pervade the varied branches of the Church universal,—that unity, which will be the prelude to the Gospel's final triumph;—when, in answer to the prayer of the Great Intercessor, His people shall be one, and the world shall believe.

May my dear friends be savingly united to Thee, in the bonds of the new and better covenant. Quicken them also together with Christ, and save them by Thy grace. Defend them from the temptations of a present evil world, and bring them in safety to the everlasting home above. Sanctify trial to all the family of sorrow Many whom Thou *lovest* are sick:—make Thou their

bed in their sickness. Draw near to every broken, bereaved heart. Give beauty for ashes; the oil of joy for mourning; and the garment of praise for a spirit of heaviness. May affliction, which, in the light of immortality is but for a moment, work out a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

I ask these and all other needed blessings for myself and others, in the name of Him whom Thou hearest always, and to whom, with Thee the Father, and Thee the ever-blessed Spirit, one God,—be ascribed all blessing and honour and glory and praise, world without end. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

23D MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Trust ye in the LORD for ever; for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength."—ISA. xxvi. 4.

Trust in God.

O GOD, I bless and praise Thy holy name, that Thou hast spared me during another night;—permitting me, once more, to kneel at the Gates of Prayer, and to offer anew my morning sacrifice of thanksgiving. Vouchsafe Thy benediction and blessing. Sprinkle me afresh with the peace-speaking blood. Grant me forgiveness for the past;—impart grace and strength for the future. In all my ways I would acknowledge Thee, do Thou direct my paths. That future is in Thy hands. I will trust and not be afraid. O my God, when my soul is cast down within me, "I will remember Thee from the land of Jordan and of the Hermonites, from the Hill Mizar." I will recall former tokens

and pledges of Thy love and favour, and implicitly confide in Thee for the time to come. Thy hand is never shortened—Thine ear is never heavy. Give me cheerful acquiescence in Thy most holy will;—undeviating reliance in the wisdom and rectitude of Thine oappintments. Save me from all impatience; all fretting and disquietude. Whatever may now be crossing my wishes, or thwarting my plans, or disappointing my hopes,—may my faithlessness be rebuked, by the assurance from lips which cannot err—"Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things."

Blessed Saviour, in whom standeth our eternal life, be Thou my guide and protector this day. May I be enabled to maintain my temper unbroken and my conscience undefiled; to stand fast in my integrity, with a single eye to Thy glory. Keep me from all deflexion from the paths of purity and

peace. Keep me from envy and uncharitableness—from pride and ambition—from discontent and dissatisfaction with the position I am called to occupy—from all that would bring discredit on the religion I profess, and that would form a blot in life's retrospect at the hour of death. Let me set a watch on every questionable and wayward impulse. May Thy present discipline, however mysterious at times it may be, tend the better to fit me for the duties and occupations of that blessed world, where I shall no longer need to trust Thee in the midst of dark dealings, but where trust shall be merged in the full and everlasting enjoyment of Thy presence and love.

Look in great mercy on the children of sorrow. In absolute self surrender, may they lean on Thee. If, when called to traverse mazy and thorny paths, they are led, in the poverty or in *the* want of faith, to say, "Not here,

Lord;"—may Thy voice be heard, gently rebuking their distrust, "What is that to thee, follow thou Me." May those bereft of loved ones, listen to divine accents breaking over the sleepers in the silent land—"Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord, from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours and their works do follow them." Meanwhile, may they confide in a wisdom that never errs, and a love that never changes; anticipating that better time, when no angel of sorrow shall evermore come down "to trouble the pool;"—and when their "loved and lost" shall be loved, never to be lost again.

Extend the benign influences of Christianity. Reveal Christ to many needy, sin-stricken souls, as the Physician who healeth all diseases. Blessed Saviour—Prince of Peace! take to Thyself Thy great power and reign. Hasten the day, when, by the regenerating in-

fluences of Thy gospel, Thou shalt sprinkle many nations, and kings shall shut their mouths at Thee;—when, seated on the throne of universal empire, angels shall laud Thee and saints shall crown Thee; and Thy Church triumphant, gathered in from every kindred and tribe and people and tongue, shall unite in the eternal ascription—"Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood."

O God, I desire anew to commit myself, and all belonging to me, to Thee and to the word of Thy grace;—rejoicing that the blessings of the covenant are in Thy hands. Give us whatever Thou knowest to be good;—deny us whatever Thou knowest to be evil. And all I ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, my blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

23D EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."—MATT. XXV. 23.

The final welcome.

O GOD, I desire to come into Thy presence on this the close of another day—adoring Thee for the gracious welcome Thou dost ever give to the mercy-seat. Hast Thou not said, "Knock and it shall be opened?" Hast Thou not set Thy seal to the words, that if an earthly father, in the tenderness of his love, knows how to give good gifts unto his children—much more may I expect to receive a plenitude of blessings from the hands of my Father in heaven? Open unto me the gates of righteousness; and, from Thy holy habitation, do Thou command upon me the blessing, even life for evermore.

I thank Thee, O Thou great Redeemer, for the reception Thou didst

accord of old in Thy ministry of love on earth, to all that sought Thee in penitence and faith. I bless Thee for that welcome which Thou didst bestow on "the weary and heavy laden," —on the sin-stricken and the sorrow-stricken. No bruised reed was ever broken by Thee,—no smoking flax was ever quenched by Thee. The most erring sheep was pursued by Thee, the Great and Good Shepherd—until Thou didst find it, and lay it upon Thy shoulders rejoicing. Still it is Thy blessed prerogative to welcome back the wanderer,—to seek and to save that which is lost.

I bless Thee, that exulting in Thy free welcome, seated on the Throne of Grace, I can also with hope and confidence anticipate Thy last and most joyous welcome on the Throne of Glory All my boldness in the prospect of the Great day, is founded on Thy complete work and glorious righteousness.

would exclaim now—what will form my alone plea then—" Behold, O God, my shield—look on the face of Thine anointed!" I know that I have a living Redeemer, and that He shall stand in the latter day upon the earth, to plead my cause before an assembled world, and to give the glad summons—" Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!" Keep me, meanwhile, earnestly and habitually looking for this blessed hope. Preserve me from whatever would dim or darken its elevating influences:—from all sloth and carelessness—all frivolity and sin. May I seek to make life, more than it has been, a preparation for eternity. In all my worldly duties and engagements, with the prospect of giving in my account at His appearing and His kingdom, may I hear the voice of Jesus saying, " Occupy till I come." Whatever talents Thou hast confided to me, give me grace diligently and faithfully to improve them. Keep

me from the abuse of my stew
If Thou hast given me worldly r
material prosperity—preserve
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enemies, may I be ushered at
that glorious land, where there

to crucify, no corruption to subdue :—where there is nothing to be delivered from;—where the joy and the presence of the Lord will be an eternal strength.

Lord, have mercy on the whole world. Let the people now sitting in darkness see a great light. On those that are in the region and shadow of death may the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His beams. Adored be Thy name for the assured word of promise, that the day is approaching, when alike obdurate Jew and idolatrous heathen will join their voices together in the shout of welcome—"Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord."

O Thou Comforter of all that are cast down—Thou Healer of the broken-hearted—Thou Friend of the friendless, look in infinite compassion on those who need Thy pitying love. Stay Thy rough wind in the day of Thine east wind. May those laid on couches of sickness, manifest a spirit of unmurmur-

ing submission to Thy will; recognising Thy hand, and Thy hand alone;—remembering that Thou art never arbitrary in Thy dealings;—that even "wearisome nights are *appointed*." Give them strength to be silent ministers of the truth, by exhibiting the power of Thy sustaining grace; looking beyond the cloudlands of earth, to the better country, where the inhabitant shall no more say, "I am sick." Thus patiently bearing their cross, may they anticipate, with calm and joyful expectancy, that blessed hour, when all the sorrows and tribulations of earth will be forgotten in the words of welcome, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom."

Graciously accept of my thanks for the mercies of the by-past day; and give to me, this night, the sleep of Thy beloved; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

24TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus."—HEB. x. 19.

The Blood of Jesus.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, draw near to me in Thy great kindness this morning. Thou hast permitted me to awake in health and strength. I would seek to enter on the duties of a new day with my mind stayed on Thee,—looking for Thy guidance and direction. O Thou who didst command the light to shine out of darkness, do Thou shine into my heart. The day will be happy and peaceful, if begun, carried on, and ended, with the conscious possession of Thy favour and love.

I come to Thee, relying on the one only Sacrifice, and exulting in the one only plea, that the blood of Jesus Christ Thy Son cleanseth from all sin. Blessed be Thy name, I have boldness to enter

into the holiest through this r
living way—God's way to the
and the sinner's way to God. C
multitudes have entered thro
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name I need no other.

Lord, grant that that precio
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science, but that it may purify
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God. Make me holy—keep n
Sanctify me, in body, soul, an
Bearing about with me continu

dying of the Lord Jesus, may the life also of Jesus be made manifest in my mortal flesh. Further me this day, in all lawful undertakings, with Thy blessing. I know not, in the course of it, what guilty thoughts may rise, and which may find expression in unworthy and hasty and sinful words or actions, defiling my own conscience, injuring my neighbour, and dishonouring Thy holy name. May I ever seek to exercise a conscience void of offence; to deal tenderly with those around me,—refraining from magnifying failings, or circulating the injurious report. O Lord, forearm me by Thy grace. In the battle with evil, around me and within me, I would overcome alone by the blood of the Lamb.

Bless my beloved friends;—those who are living near—those who may be separated by intervening oceans and continents. Thou ever-present God! be their help and friend. May Christian

memories follow them wherever they go. May they live under a sense of the All-Seeing Eye; rejoicing that no distance and no locality can divide between them and Thee. And whatever separations may take place on earth, may there be, at last, a happy and glorious meeting-place for us before Thy throne in glory, to exult together in ties that can never be dissolved.

Bless Thy Zion everywhere. Set faithful watchmen to guard her battlements, and to sound the trumpet of alarm. In times of doctrinal defection and laxity, and of defiant scepticism, may they earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Prosper the cause of truth and righteousness, and hasten, in Thine own good season, Thy Son's coming and kingdom.

Have great compassion on the afflicted. Visit in mercy the poor—the *widow*—the solitary—the unbefriended.

Spare useful and valued lives. If it be Thy holy will, bring back the shadow on life's dial, and utter the omnipotent words, "Thou shalt live and not die." May those who are appointed to death have boldness in the prospect of entering Thy immediate presence, through the same blood of Jesus. With His cross before their eyes, and the music of His name on their lips, may they be able to say, "We are confident, and willing rather, to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."

I commend myself anew to Thy gracious care, looking to Thee this day and ever, for pardon, and peace, and eternal life, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN UNTO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

24TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."—HEB. iv. 15.

The Fellow-Sufferer.

O GOD, my heavenly Father, I desire to approach Thy sacred presence to-night, in the name of Him who is my Great High Priest—the ever-living, ever-loving Redeemer. May He touch my lips as with a live altar-coal, in the hour of evening sacrifice—that my prayer may ascend before Thee as incense, sweetly perfumed with His adorable merits. Thou hast graciously shielded me this day by Thy good Providence. Accept my humble tribute of gratitude and thanksgiving for all the unmerited tokens of Thy love. How great has been the sum of them! and there are no small kindnesses with Thee,

for the least of them are undeserved. Even when Thou seest meet occasionally to mingle the cup, and to cause the shadows of affliction to fall, how little has been the proportion between the trials sent and the deserts of sin! Adversity has been alleviated by unexpected solaces, and mercy has attuned my lips to sing in the midst of judgment.

O Thou adorable Redeemer, in whom is all my hope—in whose most precious blood alone, I rely for pardon and acceptance—Thou pleading Angel-Intercessor, made not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life—I bless Thee that Thou art touched with a fellow-feeling of all my infirmities. In coming to the Gates of Prayer, in seasons of pain and suffering, loneliness and sorrow, I can cherish the consoling assurance that, as the Brother on the throne, there is not a pang I endure but Thou hast felt the same. When

the best of earthly sympathy is inadequate and unavailing, Thou, who in the days of Thy flesh didst suffer the reproach of Thy people to break Thy heart, canst enter with tender sensitiveness into the keenest woes of humanity. I can think of Thee, the Prince of Sufferers, feeling for me—weeping for me—bleeding for me—dying for me. Three is no extremity of distress, when I can find Thee, as Thou didst find Thy disciples in Thine own hour of agony, asleep. Thy hand is never shortened, Thine ear is never heavy. Thou faintest not, neither art weary.

Subdue within me whatever is inconsistent with Thy mind and will. However afflictive at times may be Thy Providential dispensations, Lord, may I ever deeply feel that there is no sorrow like the sorrow of alienation from Thy favour—that the heaviest cross I have to bear, is the cross of an unbelieving, wandering, treacherous heart. God

be merciful to me a sinner! O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world, have mercy upon me and grant me Thy peace. Thou who, though sinless Thyself, didst confront sin in every shape and form—Thou whose infinite tenderness and compassion of old, dictated the merciful excuse for the unfaithful watchers of Gethsemane, "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak," compassionate my weakness—sympathise with my struggles—give me the strength I have not in myself. It is by Thy grace alone I stand. Hold Thou me up and I shall be safe. Shield me from the snares of a seductive world; fortify me against the assaults of temptation. Pray for me, as Thou didst for Thy erring disciple, that my faith fail not.

May the Lord arise and have mercy upon Zion. With the blessed gift of the Holy Ghost sent down at Pentecost and perpetuated from age to age, Thy

Church never can be orphaned or desolate. Cause the plentiful rain to descend, wherewith Thou dost refresh Thine heritage when it is weary. Illuminate the world which is now in darkness. Sheathe its swords—break its chains—redress its wrongs. Let it welcome a long rejected Saviour as its Lord and King.

Shepherd of Israel, be Thou my guardian-keeper through the silence and darkness of another night. Abide with me, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. Let all near and dear to me share Thy loving care. Lying down to rest in Thy fear, may we awake in Thy favour, fitted and prepared for the duties of a new day. And all I ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ Thine only Son, my Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

25TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."—ACTS iv. 12.

The One Way.

FATHER of mercies and God of all grace, impotent and helpless in myself, I wait this morning at the Gate of Thy temple to listen to Thy divine word of pardon and healing. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, enable me to rise up and walk. I thank Thee for that all powerful name; that all sufficient Saviour;—I thank Thee for that new and living way of access into the holiest of all through His precious blood. There is no other way, and blessed be Thy name I need no other. I rejoice that, in Him, every barrier which guilt and sin interposed has been removed; that although countless multitudes have already availed themselves of the

free invitation, still is the door of welcome—the gate of mercy open:—still are the gracious words true as when first they were uttered—"Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out."

Blessed Redeemer, I desire to repose with implicit confidence in Thy finished work, and glorious righteousness, and all prevailing intercession. Wash me in the Fountain Thou hast opened for sin and for uncleanness. Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean. If Thou wash me not, I can have no part with Thee. It is Thou alone who canst whisper forgiveness, quiet misgivings, quicken faith, subdue corruption. Feeling the yoke of sin heavy and grievous, I come to Thee, whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light. Weary and heavy-laden,—in Thy cross and passion—in Thy will and service—I would find rest for my soul. May I lean upon Thee with unfaltering dependence

—may I be linked to Thee in holy fellowship—may I be consecrated to Thee in unswerving allegiance.

Enable me more and more to crucify sin. May its power be subdued and its love mortified. May I set watch at every avenue by which temptation may gain entrance. Lord, be with me this day in all my worldly intercourse. Keep me from the selfishness which narrows and debases. May I stoop to no base compliances—no equivocal or unworthy means of bettering my circumstances. May my work and duty be done in a religious spirit; carefully avoiding whatever would interfere with the surrender of heart and soul to Thy service. Let me exercise a jealousy over my motives as well as my actions; let my converse be sincere—my conscience clear as the noonday. Deliver me from rashness of speech: may I be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath—seeking to discharge faithfully

whatever trust Thou hast in Thy providence confided to me. In my relation to all around, give me Thine own most excellent gift of charity, remembering the tenderness of Him who would not break the bruised reed nor quench the smoking flax. May I consider the beam that may be in my own eye, when I detect the mote that is in my brother's.

I pray for my dear friends. Unite them to Thee in the bonds of the everlasting covenant. If there be any who are still going about to establish their own righteousness, and refuse to submit themselves to the righteousness of Christ, lead them to own and to confess, that neither is there salvation in any other. Bring them under the Beloved's shadow. Number them with Thy saints in glory everlasting.

Hasten the happy period, when all the ends of the earth shall come to exult in this same salvation of God.

When alike Jew and Gentile shall recognise in Messiah, the one only way and the truth and the life, and be led to crown Him as Lord of all.

I commend to Thy sympathy the wide family of sorrow. When every other source of comfort fails—may all their springs be in Thee. When no longer filling their cup, but emptying them from vessel to vessel—may they adore Thy sovereignty, and own Thy wisdom, and trust Thy love. May Christ be magnified in them whether by life or by death. As He is the one way to pardon—may they find Him also the one way to consolation and peace.

I anew supplicate Thy grace and blessing. May the Lord this day be my keeper—my stay and my strength at my right hand:—through the same Jesus Christ, my blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

T

25TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"And every man that hath this hope in him, purifieth himself, even as he is pure."—1 John iii. 3.

The Purifying Hope.

O GOD, my Heavenly Father I come this night a needy suppliant to the Gates of Prayer. Vouchsafe me Thy presence and benediction. Give me the golden Key which unlocks the treasures of Thy grace. Let all wandering thoughts—all worldly cares and disquietudes, be hushed and set aside—that I may enjoy a brief season of fellowship with Thee. Though the darkness of night has gathered around me, may it be mine to know that Thou art light, and that with Thee there is no darkness at all. "As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God—my soul thirsteth for God, for the living God."

I desire to exult anew in the plenitude of Thy great mercy in Christ. I bless Thee that I have such a Saviour to repair to. Under the consciousness of my own utter sinfulness and unworthiness, I look alone to Him for pardon and peace. May He be formed within me, the hope of glory;—made unto me wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. Planted in the likeness of His death, may I be planted also in the likeness of His resurrection. May my life now be hid with Christ in God, that when Christ who is my life shall appear, I may also appear with Him in glory. Having this hope in Him—the blessed hope of seeing Him as He is, and of enjoying His everlasting fellowship—may I purify myself even as He is pure; daily imbibing more of His meek, gentle, unselfish, unworldly spirit; withdrawing my affections from things which are of the earth, earthy;—and consecrat-

ing them to His service. Enable me to exercise a vigilant jealousy over my thoughts, words, and actions; seeking to renounce whatsoever is displeasing to Him, and that would mar my peace of conscience. In every difficult and perplexing duty, may this always form the testing question and final appeal—"How would my Lord and Saviour have acted here?" And knowing His will, may it be my delight to do it. Strengthen the things which remain and that may be ready to die. Let the power of sin wax weaker and weaker, and let the power of Thy grace within me wax stronger and stronger. Thus, blessed Saviour, whatever may be the changes and sorrows I experience in this precarious, uncertain existence; with the conscious assurance of Thy presence and love, I must be happy. If Thou art near to me—if Thou abide with me—there can be no terror in trial, no bitterness in tears, no sting in death. With

Thee for my portion, I am independent of every other. In all Thy dealings towards me, may I recognise the gracious purpose and design of making me more and more meet for that glorious world, where obedience to Thee shall never falter, and consecration shall never fail; where every thought and wish shall be in unison with the divine.

O Thou, whose heart beats responsive to the smallest sorrow of Thy stricken people, look down in great mercy on the sons and daughters of affliction. May they know that Thou hast this same wise end in all Thy discipline. May they come to feel that their greatest trials are the ladder-steps to their greatest blessings—links in the chain which draws them to heaven. Whether Thou chasten or gladden, may they be enabled to say, "Even so, Father, for it seems good in Thy sight."

Bless all related to me by whatever tie. May theirs be the tabernacles of

the righteous, where the voice of gladness and rejoicing is heard. May none of them be among the number of the loitering and presumptuous, who say, "My Lord delayeth His coming." May their loins rather be girded and their lights burning. Set as gems in Immanuel's crown, may they be found unto praise, and honour, and glory, at His appearing and kingdom.

Send times of refreshing unto Zion. Enlarge her borders; lengthen her cords and strengthen her stakes. Purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer to Thee sacrifices of righteousness. Raise up faithful and devoted ambassadors of the cross, who will sound the trumpet whether men will hear or whether they will forbear. May the Lord give the word, and great shall be the company of them that publish it.

Forgive, Lord, the sins I may have committed against Thee this day—failures in duty, rashness of speech,

covetous thoughts, infirmities of temper, uncharitable words or insinuations. If I have been quick in taking offence, or betrayed into giving offence: if I have tampered with conscience, or grieved Thy Spirit;—I would seek pardon and remission through Him who is ever waiting to be gracious, and who is alike able and willing to bestow upon me full forgiveness of all transgressions, negligences, and ignorances. Spare me, if it be Thy will, to see the light and to enjoy the comforts of a new morning. And all I ask is for Jesus' sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

26TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."—ROM. iii. 24.

Justification by Grace.

O GOD, I desire to come into Thy blessed presence this morning, thanking Thee for the mercies of the by-past night, and the renewed comforts of another day. I laid me down and slept —I awaked for the Lord sustained me. Day by day art Thou loading me with Thy benefits, and giving me unceasing cause for gratitude and praise. I bless Thee for my creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life. But I adore Thee especially for the grace of the Lord Jesus, who though He were rich—rich in all the attributes of Godhead—rich in all the plenitude of the Divine perfections,—yet for our sakes *He became* poor—stooped to the lowest

depths of humiliation, that we through His poverty might be rich, I bless Thee that around His cross, mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have embraced each other. Thou art, in Him, the just God and yet the Saviour.

I acknowledge with deep humiliation my unworthiness and guilt. Each day, as it brings with it the memory of Thy great goodness, brings with it also the memory of my multiplied offences. I confess my sins, alike of omission and commission; that I have done the things I ought not to have done, and have left undone those things I ought to have done. I have often no affecting sense of the need of salvation, and of the enslaving power of sin. I have too often resorted to false and unavailing refuges for satisfaction and happiness. I have too frequently sought to slake my thirst at the world's polluted cisterns, and failed to remember that all my fresh

springs are in Thee. Lord, have mercy upon me!—Christ, have mercy upon me! It is by free, sovereign, unmerited grace, I am what I am. If I stand at last accepted before Thy throne, this will be my plea, my confession, my eternal avowal—"Being justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Let me know, more and more, the blessedness of that word—"No condemnation." From personal experience, may I exult in the infinite treasures that are hid in Christ;—may I live under the elevating consciousness that I stand clothed in His righteousness, and that nothing can ever separate me from His love. Once within the fold, I am in the fold for ever. Loving His own at the beginning, He will love them unto the end.

In response to Thy summons, I would desire to go forth this day, to willing work and service. Be Thou my *shield*, my glory, and the lifter up of

my head. Keep me from conformity to the evil maxims and practices of the world. While grateful for the many mercies of my lot, and for the diversified sources of pleasure and enjoyment in this beautiful earth, enable me to use its blessings without abusing them, and to live under the powers of the world to come. May I know the conquering, transforming influence of Redeeming love; raising my affections, purifying my desires, elevating my life. Keep me from all that is unworthy of my Christian profession; from all malice and uncharitableness, from all impatience and irritability. Let me be guarded in language, tender and considerate in my dealings with others. May even unmerited reproach receive the gentle answer:—may I endure as seeing Him who is invisible. Let this grace of God which bringeth salvation, and which hath appeared unto all men, teach me, that denying ungodliness and

worldly lusts, I should live soberly and righteously and godly in the world; looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God our Saviour.

Blessed Spirit of all grace! come from the four winds, and breathe upon earth's slain that they may live. In the might of Thine omnipotence, say to every gate of unbelief and error, "*Ephphatha!* be opened!" May the Church be a reflector of Thee her Lord—shining for Thy glory. Hasten the day, when no jarring note will disturb her blissful harmonies;—when the watchmen on her walls shall see eye to eye, and over all the glory Thou shalt be a defence.

Bless poor afflicted ones. If Thou art leading into deep waters, may the everlasting arms be underneath and round about. Whatever the cross be, which Thy suffering people are called to carry, may they enjoy the assurance, that the same Lord who died for them,

lays it on, and keeps it on;—that no redundant thorn is in their chaplet of sorrow. When the unquiet dream of earth is over, may they awake in the morning of immortality, to see and to own, that mercy and faithfulness regulated all Thine earthly dealings; and to utter with fervid lip the confession, "We have known and believed the love which God hath to us."

Anew I supplicate Thy grace and blessing on myself, my family, and household this day. Lift upon us the light of Thy countenance—never leave and never forsake us. May the Lord be the portion of our inheritance and of our cup; the maintainer of our lot: and then, the lines shall have fallen unto us in pleasant places; yea, with God, we shall have a goodly heritage. And all I ask is for Jesus' sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

26TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."
1 THESS. v. 24.

A Faithful God.

O GOD, I approach Thy sacred presence, on this the evening of another day, through the gateway of Thy tried faithfulness. Amid the vicissitudes of a changing world;—amid the instability of human props and confidences—the fitfulness of human friendships—there is no change in Thee. With Thee is the fountain of life. For the weak, the weary, the sin-burdened and sorrow-burdened, there is ever an open door of welcome. All Thy promises are yea and amen to them that believe.

I desire to utter the memory of Thy great goodness;—to recall with heart-felt gratitude Thy faithfulness in the past. My way through life has been

paved with mercies. I have abundant reason to set up my Ebenezer, and to write upon it the inscription, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped me." Thou hast been the same in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, amid comforts or crosses.

Alas! Lord, these memories of Thy great goodness are sadly marred and clouded by the memory of my own transgressions. I offer no extenuation for their guilt. I have sinned against light and love, against the warnings of Thy providence, against the riches of Thy grace. I have too often given way to rebellion and presumption, to pride and unbelief. I have not lived up to my privileges. I have not realised, as I ought, my responsibilities. Whether Thou hast spoken to me in the whirlwind, or in the still small voice, I have alike been slow to listen. Blessings innumerable have been poured into my lap, but they have often been received

with an unthankful heart. Shadowing palms and wells of refreshing have studded my pilgrim path; but I have too frequently reclined under the shadow, and partaken of the refreshment, without any breathing of gratitude to the Bountiful Provider. And when the palm-shade and the well-spring have been exchanged for the dry and thirsty land, where no water is—when the sun of earthly joys has gone down, and I have been left to walk in darkness,—how apt have I been to murmur under Thy chastening hand, and to impeach the rectitude and wisdom of Thy dispensations. Thou faithful, covenant-keeping God, have compassion on my unfaithfulness; heal my backslidings—receive me graciously—love me freely. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joys of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Thou hast promised "all-suffi-

ciency in all things;" make Thou Thy grace sufficient for me, and perfect strength in weakness. Keep me lowly —keep me pure—keep me watchful. May I neither seek the world's applause nor dread the world's censure. My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from Him. All my purposes and plans of life I leave to Thy better direction. Guide me, while I live, by Thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Make me, at last, in Christ more than conqueror. Faithful is He that calleth me, who also will do it.

O Thou who hadst a kindly word even for the outcast's tears, look in great mercy on those who are resisting Thy grace—grieving Thy Spirit—rushing against the thick bosses of Thy buckler. Lord, reclaim them, ere it be too late. Reveal to them the glorious name, and person, and work of Him, whose divine mission it was to seek and to save that which was lost. Amid the misery and

disquiet of their alienation and guilt, may they repair to His cross, and there obtain rest for their souls.

Have mercy on the afflicted. There is not one broken, bleeding heart among the aching children of humanity, but what is known to Thee. Look upon them with Thy pitying eye. May they regard each trial as an angel beckoning them nearer heaven. May the thought that He who sends their afflictions is the same God who gave Jesus for them, lull all misgivings and silence all murmurings. Harbouring no suspicions of Thy faithfulness, may they breathe the prayer divinely taught—"Thy will be done," and trust Him to be faithful that promised—"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

Bless all my dear friends: pour upon them the continual dew of Thy blessing. May they be among the beloved of the Lord who dwell in safety, and who are *quiet* from fear of evil. Hasten the

promised and predicted conversion of the world,—when the Gentiles shall come to Thy light, and kings to the brightness of Thy rising. Let Thy mighty power be manifested as of old, in behalf of Thy Church; that men may know that Thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the most High over all the earth. "Let the people praise Thee, O Lord, yea let all the people praise Thee."

I would retire to rest this night rejoicing in a faithful God, and reposing under the covert of Thy wings. Watch over me; and, if spared till to-morrow, may I rise refreshed and invigorated for the duties of a new day. And all I ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

27TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.—Ps. xvii. 15.

Vision and Fruition.

O GOD ALMIGHTY, who art ever good and doing good—Father of all mercies and God of all grace—I thank Thee for the gladsome return of day. I thank Thee for the glories of sunshine—for the varied delights of this beautiful earth;—for its summer and winter—its seed-time and harvest—its grateful alternation and vicissitude of season. Thou hast never left Thyself without a witness, in that Thou art continually doing us good; giving us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and with gladness. Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. Do Thou grant me Thy benediction, as I wait upon Thee anew

at the Gates of the Morning. Shine upon me, Thou better Sun of Righteousness, with the brightness of Thy rising. May no cloud of sin or unbelief be suffered to obscure Thy radiance, or to dim the sense of Thy favour and love.

I desire to make a full and unreserved acknowledgment of all my many offences. Thou knowest how apt I am to offer vain excuses for my faults; to plead my inability, when it is my unwillingness—to call that my misfortune which is my sin. Truly I have no palliation or extenuation for my transgressions. Enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified.

I bless Thee that in Thy dear Son, Thou art waiting to be gracious; that in Him I can even now behold Thy face in righteousness. My own heart condemns me, and Thou art greater than my heart. But let Thy hand be

upon the Man of Thy right hand, on the Son of Man whom Thou hast made strong for Thyself. Behold, O God, my Shield, and look on the face of Thine anointed.

And while I turn to His cross for pardon and reconciliation,—I would pray that Thy Holy Spirit may fulfil within me all the good pleasure of Thy goodness, and the work of faith with power. May it be my habitual and constant endeavour to aim after that holiness of heart and life, without which no man can see Thee or enjoy Thee. Keep me from, and keep from me, all that would be detrimental to my soul's interests. Deliver me from hardness of heart, from worldliness and uncharitableness, from those absorbing anxieties of earth which tend to dim and impair the spiritual vision. Make me a more loving and obedient follower of the Great Exemplar; seeking daily to walk in His blessed footsteps, and to im-

bibe His blessed spirit; and thus rising to the true dignity and greatness of redeemed humanity, to become gradually more and more meet for His full vision and fruition, when I shall be like Him, for I shall see Him as He is.

While I pray for myself, I would pray, also, for all whom it is alike my privilege and duty to remember at the throne of the heavenly grace. May the voice of rejoicing and salvation be heard this day in the tabernacles of those I love. Shield their households from danger, and their souls from sin. Beholding now Thy face in righteousness—may they, too, at last wake up from the dream of earth in the morning of immortality, wearing Thy likeness, and tasting the joys of Thine own beatitude—"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Have mercy on the sick, the sorrowing, the bereaved; those who have secret, unspoken afflictions, with which

no stranger—no friend—can intermeddle. If they see not yet any bright light in the cloud, may they take comfort in the promise—that "at evening time it shall be light."

Bless Thy Zion everywhere. Hasten the coronation day of the Church triumphant. Let the year of Thy Redeemed speedily come, when all wrongs shall be redressed—all calumnies and aspersions wiped away. Return and visit the Vine which Thine own right hand hath planted, and the branch Thou hast made strong for Thyself.

I put myself this day under Thy gracious care. I would re-enter the battle of life girded with Thy strength, clothed with the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left. Let me engage in nothing that will violate the dictates of conscience, or do despite unto the Spirit of Grace. May I seek that my hands may be clean—my heart pure—my words kind—my

actions unselfish. May I, and all near and dear to me, live and walk and act, from day to day and from hour to hour, as we would wish we had done, in a dying hour. With the glorious prospect of at last beholding Thee face to face, may this urgent question exercise over us an ever-present influence, "What manner of persons ought we to be, in all holy conversation and godliness; looking for, and hasting unto the coming of the Day of God?" Oh may we be diligent, that we may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless.

Hear, O God, in Heaven Thy dwelling-place, these my morning supplications: when thou hearest, forgive, and grant me an answer in peace; for the sake of Him whom Thou hearest always: Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

27TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."—2 TIM. i. 12.

The Grand Persuasion.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, draw Thou near to me in Thine infinite loving kindness, as I now commend myself, soul and body, to Thee in well-doing, as unto a Faithful Creator. The shadows of night have again gathered around me. I would close the portals of another day with the golden key of prayer; rejoicing that Thou art more willing to hear than I am to ask. I would retire to rest with Thy blessing and benediction breathed upon me. May He who came of old to His disciples at eventide, and said unto them, "Peace be unto you," abide with me, "for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent."

I desire to look, blessed Saviour, with

the unwavering eye of faith, to Thy completed work and unchanging promises. I know whom I have believed. Thou art all I need, living or dying. I commit my temporal as well as my everlasting interests to Thy keeping;—all that concerns alike this world and the next. I rejoice that they are in safe custody in Thy hands. To whom can I go but unto Thee? Thou hast the words of eternal life.

Deepen within me the sense of my solemn responsibilities. Keep me ever mindful of "that Day;"—that the Great Being who is now my omniscient witness, will shortly be my Judge. I rejoice to think that He who is then to be exalted on a Throne of glory, is that same gracious Redeemer who is now seated on a Throne of grace. "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though, after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall

I see God." O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world—who hast done all, and suffered all, and procured all on my behalf—and out of whose infinite fulness I have the promise of receiving grace for grace—do Thou strengthen me with might by Thy Spirit in the inner man. Defend me from every snare and danger which may beset my path. Be my Shield in prosperity—my Refuge in adversity—my Comforter in sorrow—my Light in darkness—my Hope in death—my Defender and Vindicator in judgment—my Joy and Portion through all eternity.

Forgive, Lord, whatever I have said amiss, or done amiss this day. If in my worldly intercourse and occupations there has been any turning aside from the path of duty or rectitude—any tampering with temptation and sin—any exhibition of temper or passion inconsistent with my Christian profession—

any impurity of thought or selfishness of motive—Lord, forgive me. Sprinkle my erring heart anew with the covenant token. Cleanse Thou me from secret faults. Keep back Thy servant also from presumptuous sins, and suffer them not to have dominion over me. Come, Lord, and search me; try me, and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. May the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, expel whatever is unholy, and transform me more and more into the image and likeness of Thy dear Son.

Every blessing I ask for myself, I implore in behalf of all near and dear to me. May they too be led to make this sacred, everlasting deposit, into the hands of the Great Redeemer. O forbid that His advent should overtake any of us as a thief. May we be looking for it, longing for it, preparing for it, living for it. The Lord grant unto

us that we may find mercy of the Lord on that day.

Let the wanderer be brought back to the fold. Let the impenitent and stout-hearted be subdued and humbled; and let them that love Thee be as the sun when he goeth forth in his strength. Succour the sick and the distressed. Pity the careless—reclaim the back-sliding. Comfort the widow, the orphan, the fatherless, the poor also, and him that hath no helper. May trial result in the quickening and sanctifying of Thy true people. May the dying be prepared for their great change:—may the light of Thy love cheer them in their passage through the dark valley:—may the hour of departure be to them the birthday of glory everlasting. And may those who have recently committed their loved ones to the silence of the tomb, exult in the assurance which robs Death of its sting and the Grave of its victory;—that this corrup-

tible must put on incorruption, and this mortal immortality; and that them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.

I would lie down to rest this night, at peace with Thee, and in charity with all mankind. O Thou Shepherd of Israel, who never slumbers, be around my pillow during the unconscious hours of sleep. If spared till to-morrow, may I awake refreshed and invigorated for the duties of another day, and for renewed consecration to Thy will and service. Through Jesus Christ my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

28TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Thy word is very pure: therefore Thy servant loveth it."—Ps. cxix. 140.

The Sacred Word.

O LORD, I come this morning into Thy gracious presence, adoring Thee as God over all, blessed for evermore. Thou hast never left Thyself without a witness. The heavens declare Thy glory, the firmament showeth forth Thy handiwork. The sun and moon and stars are silent evangelists discoursing of Thy greatness. They have no speech nor language, their voice is not heard; —but they bear mute and ceaseless testimony to Thine eternal wisdom, power, and Godhead.

I bless Thee that Thou hast not left Thy children to these utterances of material creation. I bless Thee for that sublime Revelation of Thy character and attributes Thou hast given in

Thy holy Word. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul,—the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. I bless Thee, that in this favoured land of religious freedom, each is permitted to sit under his own vine and fig-tree without any to make him afraid, and to read in his own tongue the marvellous works of God. By the teaching of Thy Spirit, may I be enabled duly to value the Holy Scriptures, and to know from personal experience that they are able to make wise unto salvation. O Thou Enlightener, Teacher, Sanctifier of the whole Church, open Thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of the Divine law, and cause it to be esteemed by me, better than thousands of gold and of silver.

I desire, Lord, to acknowledge how unworthy I am of this and of every other spiritual boon and blessing. I have to mourn the poverty of my faith

—the lukewarmness of my love—the fitfulness of my obedience—the perfunctory performance of my religious duties. How little the precepts of Thy sacred Scriptures have been treasured in my heart, and reduced to practice in my daily walk and conversation. How often I have indulged in tempers and feelings inconsistent with Thy revealed will, and with the character of Him who was meek and lowly in heart. I have too often yielded to the power of temptation,—bent like a brittle reed in the storm; dishonouring Thy name and grieving Thy Spirit. Thou mightest righteously have left me to reap the fruit of my own ways and to be filled with my own devices,—saying, "Ephraim is joined to his idols, let him alone."

Lord, have mercy upon me. Forgive me, for Thy dear Son's sake. I would make it my prayer, "Teach me the way of Thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto

the end." May I hold fast the profession of my faith without wavering. May my worldly engagements and calling, whatever these be, be sanctified and sweetened by the consciousness of Thine approval and love. Let all life's duties be pervaded by a sense of Thy presence,—laying out my time and talents and opportunities for Thy glory, and being tenderly solicitous about the happiness and well-being of others. Let me not prefer my own word, and my own will, to Thine:—but may all the plans of my life be framed in accordance with Thy testimonies. With docility may I listen to their divine teachings. Amid the fretting annoyances of everyday life, may they prove my infallible counsellors. Amid all earth's joys, may they be the songs in the house of my pilgrimage. Amid all earth's changes—when the grass withereth and the flower fadeth, may I know that the Word of our God shall stand for

ever; and at last, with it as a staff in my hand, may I cross the border river.

Lord, let Thy Word have free course and be glorified throughout the whole world. May it be mighty as ever in the pulling down of strongholds. May Thy faithful missionary servants, going forth with the sling of faith and a few pebbles from the brook, overcome every foe: may this be their joyful testimony —"So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed." We thank Thee for that plentiful rain wherewith, from time to time, Thou dost refresh Thine inheritance when it is weary. May the shower still come down in its season: let there be showers of blessing. Spirit of the living God! Thou who canst alone give efficacy to the living Word —as the Dove of peace, do thou speed with this true olive branch from country to country and from shore to shore. May the leaves of the Tree be *for* the healing of the nations.

Bless all who are in sorrow. May they, too, be enabled from heartfelt experience to say, "This is my comfort in mine affliction—Thy Word hath quickened me." May they kiss the rod that smites, and adore the hand which lays them low. And by Thy gracious discipline here, may they be trained for the higher services of the heavenly sanctuary.

I anew commend myself, and all near and dear to me, to Thee this day. Deliver my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, my feet from falling. Keep my tongue from evil and my lips from speaking guile. Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee. Hold Thou up my goings in Thy paths, that my steps slip not; and lead me in the way everlasting. Through Jesus Christ my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

28TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."—JOHN xiv. 27.

The Gift of Peace.

O GOD, compose my mind for venturing now into Thy presence. I thank Thee for so precious a legacy bequeathed by the adorable Saviour to all His true people. I desire, in retiring to rest, to pass through this Beautiful Gate of the Temple, and anew to repose on Him who alone can speak peace to the sin-burdened and sorrow-burdened. Looking to His glorious, completed work, I can triumphantly say, Return unto thy rest—thy peace—O my soul, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee.

Forbid that I should ever be found seeking peace elsewhere;—searching for forgiveness and comfort in anything *short* of the peace purchased and

secured through the blood of His cross. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant me Thy peace. It is "not as the world giveth." If Thou givest peace, who then can give trouble? May the possession of that peace preserve me calm and tranquil amid all adverse providences. May I be enabled to repose with unswerving confidence in the wisdom of the divine guidance, and in the rectitude of the divine dealings. Thou God of peace, who hast brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus—that Great Shepherd of the sheep,—who hast, in the past, caused me to lie down in green pastures, and led me by the still waters;—often disappointing my fears and more than realising my hopes,—preventing me with the blessings of Thy goodness;—I will still go in Thy promised strength. I would seek to have no wish, and no will, and no way of my own. Do *to* me, and *with* me, as

seemeth good in Thy sight, only make me possessor of this best blessing—the peace of Thine which passeth all understanding—that peace which the world knows not of,—which the world with its riches and pleasures, its blandishments and fascinations, cannot give; and which the world, with all its troubles and anxieties, its sorrows and its trials, cannot take away.

Having peace with Thee, my God, give me that charity which is ever the associate and companion of peace. Fill me with the fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith, temperance. Hasten the time when the waves of this troublesome world will be rocked to rest. Promote the cause of true and universal brotherhood. Come, Thou blessed "Father of peace!" give to all the nations of the earth unity, and concord. Come, Thou blessed Prince of peace!—go forth with

that sword which smites only to heal, —"conquering and to conquer." Come, Thou Holy Spirit! Dove of peace—"sweet Messenger of rest!"—and brood, as Thou didst of old, over the waste of chaos;—bringing light out of darkness and order out of confusion. May the mountains bring peace to the people, and the little hills by righteousness.

Vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, to my beloved friends, a personal interest in the same dying legacy of the Great Redeemer. To ensure to them the enjoyment of this peace, may they look to Him *for* everything, and may they look to Him *in* everything; seeking to live day by day, under the invigorating motive, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." I pray for those who are in any wise afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate—tossed with tempest and not comforted. Thou sympathising Saviour, do Thou draw near to them, and say, "Peace, be

still." Thou wilt keep them in perfect peace whose minds are stayed on Thee. May they know Thine own gracious word of promise, that "this is the rest wherewith Thou dost cause the weary to rest, and this is the refreshing."

I would lie down to-night in peace, and sleep, under the comforting assurance that Thou Lord only makest me to dwell in safety. It is Thou who givest Thy beloved sleep. And when all earthly nights are past—may I wake up to endless peace, in glory everlasting; and be made partaker of the true rest which remaineth for Thy believing people; through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

29TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began."—TIT. i. 2.

The hope of Eternal Life.

O GOD, I desire to come to the Gates of Prayer this morning, thanking and praising Thee for all Thy great mercies. The pleasant radiance of another day has visited my chamber. Glory be to Thee for the blessings of the light. Thou mightst have made my pillow last night a pillow of death. But another sun has risen upon me. Thou mightst have forbidden that sun to rise; or, as in the case of many who started life with me, it might now have been shining on my grave. But Thou hast spared me to enjoy the blessings of existence, and the many sources of its happiness. O Thou who didst command the light to shine out of darkness, do Thou shine into my heart with the

light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. May He who is the true Sun of Righteousness disperse all the mists of unbelief, and ignorance, and sin; and may I enjoy the elevating satisfaction of a soul at peace with Thee.

Lord, I acknowledge how much I have done to quench the light of Thy countenance, to forfeit Thy favour, and incur Thy righteous displeasure. I have no apology to plead for my sins. Thou hast spoken to me in the lessons of Thy Providence, and by the teachings of Thy Word;—by the voices of the living, and the silent voices of the dead;—in prosperity, by Thy manifold mercies—in adversity, by their curtailment or withdrawal. And yet, how callous and unconcerned have I been! How careful and troubled about the many things of this life, and how prone to forget the realities of the world to come.

I bless Thee for the revelation of this higher existence; for the hope of eternal life given by the God that cannot lie;—the glorious assurance that death is but the moment of transition into purer being;—that through Him who by His own death hath been death's Vanquisher, the gates of the grave open on a limitless beatific future. May all the salutary discipline of Thy Providence wean me from earth, and train me up in a meetness for that heavenly Kingdom, whose truest rest will be the unceasing activities of Thy service. Deaden unnecessary solicitude about the present. Enable me to walk through the world with a conscience void of offence both towards God and towards man. Let me strive after a closer and more consistent walk with Thee, and a more habitual dependence on the aids of Thy grace and Spirit. I cannot soar to the region of faith without Thy strength; I cannot live under the powers of the

world to come, without Thy teaching and guidance. Show me Thy ways, O Lord—teach me Thy paths. Remembering that this present life of probation moulds and shapes and determines the life that is to come;—that as men live here, so will they live for ever;—may I be so enabled faithfully to occupy, as best I can, and while I can, whatever niche Thou hast assigned me in Thy Temple, that when I come to resign my stewardship it may be with the humble hope that I have not been a traitor to my trust. Feelingly alive to my momentous responsibilities—may I be diligent, that I may be found of Thee in peace without spot and blameless.

Let a rain-shower of blessing descend on all near and dear to me. May they too, be enabled to know Him and to love Him, whom to know and whom to love is life eternal. Bless all in sorrow. May they lie passive in the arms

of Thy mercy. Raise up the sick. Be the God of the widow—the Help of the poor—the Friend of the unbefriended—the Father of the fatherless. Conduct the dying through the swellings of Jordan. "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." May this prove a quieter to all fears, lull all misgivings, and repress all murmurs.

O Thou great Ruler of mankind, hasten the time when all shall know Thee, from the least unto the greatest. Extend and establish the principles and the reign of Righteousness. Scatter the people that delight in war. Let the cruel sword long slumber. Give peace in our time, O Lord, for there is none other that fighteth for us but only Thou, O God. Let the dew of Hermon—the dew which descended on the mountains of Zion, come down on the Holy Church throughout all the world. May all Thy churches, walking in the fear of God and in the comfort of the

Holy Ghost, everywhere be multiplied. Save Thy people; bless Thine inheritance; feed them also, and lift them up for ever.

Anew I commend myself to Thy gracious keeping this day. Guide me by Thy counsel;—guard me from temptation;—lead me in the way everlasting. May every unloving thought—every unworthy aim and aspiration—give place to what is pure and unselfish and kind. And when Thou hast finished Thy course and Thy purposes with me here below, may an abundant entrance be ministered into Thy kingdom and glory. Through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

29TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"For through him we have both access by one Spirit unto the Father."—EPH. ii. 18.

Access to the Father.

BLESSED GOD, I am again permitted this night to approach the Throne of Grace, in the name of Him whom Thou hearest always—who ever stands by the golden altar with the fragrant censer in His hands. The voices of countless suppliants are at this moment ascending into His ear, but He can listen to them all, and answer them all.

Give me now filial confidence in drawing near to Thee, my Father in heaven. Let me rejoice that the Key which unlocks these gates, admits to a Father's presence and a Father's love. Through Him who hath secured this glorious liberty of access, let my prayer come up before Thee as incense, and

the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Great Keeper of Israel! do Thou keep me under the shadow of Thy wings. Gladden me with that inner sunshine which brightens and beautifies and glorifies every earthly lot, and makes Thy people independent of all the varying and changing circumstances of outer life. Under the consciousness of Thy friendship and blessing, may I feel that I am rich, whatever else may be wanting.

But while rejoicing in this freedom of approach accorded to Thy children, I have reason also to utter the confession, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before Thee, and am no more worthy to be called Thy son." I acknowledge my great unworthiness; —my declensions and backslidings by reason of indulged sin, leading too often from weakness to weakness, instead of from strength to strength. I have not habitually frequented the

mercy-seat as I ought to have done, and prized the privilege of unfettered access to Thy presence. My prayers have too often been cold and listless—formal and insincere; instead of being the unburdenings and outpourings of filial confidence and trust. Where would I have been this night but for Thy paternal forbearance.

Blessed Saviour, I desire to rest on the preciousness of Thine atoning blood—on the perfection of Thy glorious righteousness—on the tenderness of Thy all-wise dealings—on the prevalence of Thy continual intercession. In Thee I have all and abound. In Thee, in the midst of my spiritual poverty, I am rich:—nothing can touch my divine patrimony. In Thee, I have the pledge and guarantee for the bestowment of every other needed blessing.

Lord, I would plead this night for increased communications and supplies of Thy grace. Strengthen me with all

might by Thy Spirit in the inner man. Keep me from all that would be detrimental to my spiritual interests—all that would weaken or impair this filial confidence, and lead me to restrain prayer. Whatever be my dominant sin;—ease or pleasure—pride or passion—covetousness or ambition,—enable me by the promised help of Thy Spirit, to subdue it—nailing it to the Redeemer's cross. Enable me to follow His meekness and gentleness; to be kind and forgiving;—tender and charitable towards the weak and the absent—the tempted and the erring. Conscious of the supreme enthronement of Thy love, may life be, more than it has been, an effort to crucify self and to please Thee. Even when there may be mystery in Thy dealings, let me not wrong Thy goodness and wisdom with one shadow of suspicion. Whether by giving or by taking, by smiting or by healing—by the sweet cup or the bitter, may it be

mine to say, "Father! glorify Thy name!"

Bless my beloved friends. Though severed from one another by distance, we can meet in thought at the mercy-seat, and, through Christ, have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Breathe Thou upon us and say, "I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters."

Compassionate all in sorrow. If there has been, with any, the thwarting of favourite schemes and the blighting of fond hopes,—may these, too, be met with the breathing of meek acquiescence, "Even so, Father." May the realised consciousness of Thy paternal love, sustain amid adverse experiences and foster submissive trust. Stand by every couch of sickness. If it be Thy will, give back loved ones. Show that, with Thee, all things are possible, and that to the Lord our God belong the issues from death.

Bless Thy universal Church. Beautify every sanctuary with Thy presence; and hasten the promised day, when the wilderness and the solitary place shall be made glad, when the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. Bring Thy true people nearer one another. May the watchmen on Zion, who, by reason of present infirmity and weakness and prejudice, may be alienated and estranged, come to see eye to eye. May we all look forward to that happy time when filial love shall be perfected, and consecration of heart and service be complete; when every human will shall be in harmony with Thine;—the intellect purified and ennobled;—the memory made the repository of pure and hallowed recollections;—the whole soul converted into a spiritual temple, where God is all in all. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

30TH MORNING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"The Lord God omnipotent reigneth."—Rev. xix. 6.

A Reigning God.

O GOD, I adore Thy sovereignty. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. All space is Thy dominion: Thou doest according to Thy will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. Thou countest the number of the stars and namest them every one: Thou healest the broken in heart and bindest up their wounds. The sparrow's fall is appointed by Thee: the young raven's cry is heard by Thee: the very hairs of our head are numbered by Thee. From the drop of the forest leaf to the departure of the soul in death—all is known to Thee and ordered by Thee. Thou appointest the bounds of our habitation. Man proposes, but Thou

disposest; and Thou disposest all things well. Let it be thus ever a joyous thought, that whatsoever concerns me and mine, is under the control and direction of infinite wisdom and unchanging, everlasting love. I cannot forecast the future; but it is in Thy hands. Even if there be cloud and tempest, it is Thou who walkest upon the wings of the wind. Omnipotence treads the stormy waters. Omnipotence directs the roll of every billow: and, when it is meet, Omnipotence utters the mandate, "Peace, be still!"

O God, I have to acknowledge that I have not always thus realised Thy constant supervision, and taken the comfort I ought to have derived from Thy sovereign rule. I have too often practically forgotten the Great Supreme, by dwelling on second causes. I have allowed myself to be disturbed and harassed with little vexations;—anxious thoughts for the present, and misgivings

and forebodings for the future. Enable me to cast all my cares, great or small, on Thee; knowing that Thou carest for me. Let me brace myself for duty or for trial under the sheltering promise, "I will make My grace sufficient for thee: I will perfect strength in weakness." If I enjoy the consciousness of having Thee on my side, who hast given me the mightiest pledge of Thy love in Jesus,—I may confidently trust Thy faithfulness for lesser blessings. Every other rill of comfort may be withdrawn: but if my well-springs are in Thee, I am independent alike of what the world may give or take away. With Thee as my heritage and portion, I need no other.

Keep me pure and unspotted in my intercourse with the world, whether in my duties or my enjoyments. Forbid that I should offer at the shrine of self, or pleasure, or mammon, my best,—and be content with giving the remnants of

worn and wasted affections to Thee. May I beware of any and every deviation from the straight path. Hold Thou me up and I shall be safe. This day, do Thou guard me from whatever would be detrimental to my soul's good. Preserve me from the guilt of wasted hours and slighted opportunities. Enable me to renounce all evil habits—all debasing compliances. May every idol that would usurp Thy place be overthrown. May no corrupt thought pollute my heart—no unworthy utterance defile my tongue—no unholy action stain my life.

O Thou mighty reigning God—give peace in our time! Maintain peace among the nations; or if Thou shouldest send war as one of Thy four sore judgments, let the sword prepare the way for the ploughshare, and the spear for the pruning-hook. If darkness be now covering the lands and gross darkness the people, may it usher in the

longed-for era of millennial bliss, when the Prince of Peace shall take to Himself His great power and reign;—when the cry shall be heard from shore to shore and from pole to pole, "The kingdoms of this world are become the one kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ."

Keep, and preserve, and comfort, all the sons and daughters of sorrow. In the spirit of weaned children may they say, "Father, not our will but Thine be done." May they feel that in Thee they have enough for every emergency, and that they can write under each trying hour, "As thy days, so shall thy strength be." Compassionate those laid on beds of sickness and languishing. Assuage suffering: smooth the pillow of pain. Prepare the dying for death, and what is after death. And may the living remember that they too must die.

Ere I now go out into the world I

would cling to the horns of the altar. There I would bind with cords, my morning sacrifice of confession and penitence—of gratitude and praise. The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? Lead me in Thy truth and teach me, for Thou art the God of my salvation; on Thee do I wait all the day. Whom have I in heaven, O Saviour, but Thee; on earth there is none I would desire in comparison with Thee. My flesh and my heart faileth, but Thou art the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. Unto Thee, with the Adorable Father and the Eternal Spirit, I would ascribe all blessing and honour, and glory and praise; world without end. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

30TH EVENING.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten."—REV. iii. 19.

The Chastening of Love.

O GOD, I desire to come into Thy gracious presence, thanking Thee for the mercies of the by-past day. The shadows of another evening have gathered around me:—may I feel that "it is not night if Thou art near." May "no earth-born cloud arise" to eclipse the sunshine of Thy love, and deprive me of the sensible tokens of Thy favour.

Adored be Thy name, that all events are at Thy disposal and under Thy righteous ordination and control. I rejoice to know that Thy dealings, though sovereign, are never arbitrary. Thou art my Father. Give me trust, and confidence, and filial reverence. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth

them that fear Him—for He knoweth our frame, He remembereth that we are dust. Thy way is sometimes in the sea, and Thy path in the deep waters, and Thy judgments unsearchable; but the day is coming when Thou wilt vindicate the rectitude of Thy procedure, and bring every tongue to confess "the Lord hath done all things well."

I have no reason to wonder at any afflictions or chastisements. I have rather reason to wonder at Thy patience and long-suffering kindness; that the cumberer's sentence has not been pronounced, and the cumberer's doom has not been visited upon me. Blessed Redeemer, how coldly have I requited Thy love;—how unworthily have I resisted Thy grace, evaded Thy pleadings, grieved Thy Spirit. How often have I kept Thee standing at the door of my heart,—Thy head wet with dew and Thy locks with the drops of the night;

resigning myself to spiritual sloth and indifference,—allowing worldly interests and engrossments to supersede the concerns of the soul and eternity. And yet Thou art still waiting to be gracious;—Thy hand of mercy and forbearance is stretched out still.

Let me trust that same love and mercy, in whatever means Thou seest meet to employ in order to promote the life of faith, to quicken obedience, and stimulate my spiritual graces. We are apt to settle on our lees, when we are not emptied from vessel to vessel. We need at times a thorn put into our nest, that we may not build too securely here. We need, ever and anon, the monition to be sounded in our ears, "Arise ye and depart, for this is not your rest." Lord, by Thine own salutary discipline, do Thou wean me from earth, and train me for heaven. Destroy all self-sufficiency. Give me the ornament of a meek and quiet, a peace-

ful and contented spirit. Keep me from being fretted by real or imagined injuries. Keep me from whatever would inflict pain on others—or infringe in any way the sacredness of the golden rule. In lowliness of mind may I seek to esteem others better than myself. Preserve me from all that would generate rebellion, or foster worldliness, or deaden spirituality of heart. Whether by active work or by passive endurance, may I seek to glorify Thy holy name. If Thou hast curtailed me of some earthly good, let me feel that some higher spiritual blessing is in reversion. Let my will be resolved into Thine; and then will the trials of life be disarmed of their sting, when I view them as part of Thine own plan of infinite wisdom.

I pray for all the children of God that are scattered abroad. I pray for Thy tempest-tossed Church. Amid environing storms, may she look to

Him who ruleth the raging of the sea. Bring Thy true people nearer one another. Hasten the time when, no longer ranged under different banners bearing the shibboleth of party—they shall be found, side by side, fighting the battles of their Lord.

O Thou Help of the helpless, Thou Father of the fatherless, Thou Friend of the friendless—Thou Great and Good Shepherd who gently leadest the weak, the weary, the burdened of Thy flock, —do Thou look in especial tenderness on the afflicted. May they be enabled to sing of mercy in the midst of judgment. May they know from experience, that Thou dost ever mingle sweet ingredients in the cup of sorrow ;—opening well-springs in the Valley of Baca, and transforming Achor into a door of hope. Be the healer of the broken-hearted, the comforter of all that are cast down. In the midst of the blighting of cherished hopes and the failure of

favourite schemes, may they glorify Thee by unquestioning submission. Take Thou off their sackcloth and gird them with gladness. May the assurance "whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth"—still and quiet every misgiving. Prepare the dying for death. May they pass from the cherished scenes and associations of earth, to the presence of angels and the fruition of God.

Take the charge of me through the silence and darkness of another night. May I lie down to sleep with the assurance that Thou dost sustain me, and when I awake, may I be still with Thee. And all I ask is for the Blessed Redeemer's sake. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

31st Morning.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord."—Ps. cxii. 7.

Banished Fears.

Heavenly Father, I desire to approach Thy gracious presence through this blessed Gateway of Trust. My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed:—I will trust and not be afraid, for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; He also is become my salvation. I bless Thee that in this holy confidence, I can enter on the work and duties—the joys and sorrows—the trials and temptations of a new day. Thou hast been in the past a refuge in the time of trouble, vouchsafing help when vain was the help of man. I will trust Thee still; leaning on Thine arm—confident in Thy grace, I will go in the strength of the Lord God, making mention of Thy righteousness, even of Thine only.

I come to Thee supplicating Thy pardoning mercy. Forgive my many sins in all their heinousness and aggravation:—may every guilty stain be washed away:—may I stand now and ever in Thy sight, accepted in the Beloved. Other Refuge—other Saviour—other Righteousness—I *have* none, and I *need* none;—I cast my helpless soul for time and for eternity on His finished work and atoning sacrifice. May the Holy Ghost—the Spirit of all grace—promised by Him on His departure from the world, come down to cleanse and regenerate and sanctify me, and make me meet to be partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light. Thy Spirit, O God, is good, lead me to the land of uprightness.

Lord, equip me this morning for Thy service. May the great predominating motive, to love and to glorify Thee, regulate and control my actions—quicken my energies—and give direc-

tion to all my schemes and purposes. Clothe and panoply me with the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left. The name of my spiritual foe is "legion," for they are many. I have no might against this great multitude, neither know I what to do—but mine eyes are upon Thee. Thy hand is never shortened; Thine ear is never heavy. He that is with me and for me, is greater far than they that be against me. I will trust in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength. "O Lord, in Thee have I trusted, let me never be confounded."

And may all near and dear to me enter by this same Gate of the righteous; and exercise the same loving, unwavering confidence in Thy faithfulness. If any be in trouble, do Thou succour them; if any be bereaved, do Thou comfort them. May they know, in their happy experience, that they who trust in the

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—the ambassadors of Thy Word at home, as well as Thy faithful missionaries abroad. May it specially be theirs, amid manifold discouragements, to rise by faith above the fear of evil tidings, and to have their hearts fixed trusting in the Lord. May the joy of the Lord be their strength.

And now, Lord, what wait I for?—my hope is in Thee. Hear Thou in heaven, Thy holy habitation, these my unworthy prayers; and when Thou hearest, forgive, and grant me an answer in peace;—through Jesus Christ, in whom is all my trust; and to whom, with Thee the Father, and the Holy Spirit—Three in one in covenant for my salvation,—be ascribed all blessing, and honour, and glory, and praise world without end. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."

31st Evening.

"This gate of the Lord into which the righteous shall enter"—

"Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended."—Isa. lx. 20.

The Everlasting Light.

O God, I come to Thee this evening, as the Everlasting Light; with whom there is no darkness at all. I beseech Thee show me Thy glory. May the din of the world be shut out: suffer not its distracting thoughts and cares to intrude in this the hour of my evening oblation. Bring me under the solemnising influence of unseen realities. May the Gate of prayer become as the Gate of heaven.

I bless Thee for the glimpses given of the things prepared within the veil, for them that love Thee. I thank Thee for the images and emblems contained *in Thy* most holy Word, of this future

world of bliss—"the rest which remaineth"—"the kingdom which cannot be moved"—"the Father's house" with its "many mansions"—"the sun that shall no more go down"—the moon that shall never wax nor wane—a sinless, sorrowless, tearless immortality. All present joys are transient, shadowy, unreal, compared with these. Grant, Lord, that when I awake from the sleep of death, I may partake of endless life in Thee;—satisfied with Thy likeness; and served heir to Thine own gracious beatitude—"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Alas! the love which ought to have reigned paramount, has too often been supplanted and superseded by other affections. I have to lament my bias to sin—the latent principles of corruption—the evil heart of unbelief which is ever tempting me to stray from the living God—the burdens and impediments which clog the wings of faith and

prevent me soaring heavenwards. Lord, elevate my affections, purify my desires, quicken my new obedience. May my life become, more than it has been, an offering of gratitude—a sacrifice of praise for all Thy many mercies. By the blessings Thou art bestowing, as well as by the salutary discipline of Thy providence in curtailing or removing these, may I become gradually prepared for the enjoyment of Thy presence;—for taking my place as a worshipper in that Temple, where my present imperfect and divided service and love will be merged in the bliss of perfect, unalloyed, uninterrupted consecration. Meanwhile, keep me from the absorbing power, the benumbing influence of earthly things. Keep me mindful that my little day is flitting fast, and that opportunities of serving and glorifying Thee must speedily terminate. May I be enabled so to live, that when the hour of departure arrives, I may lean with unfaltering and

unwavering trust on the promised rod and staff, and pass from a death full of hope to an immortality full of glory.

I pray for all mankind. Lord, pity the heathen kingdoms, still the habitations of cruelty; hear the loud cry of oppression and tyranny and wrong which is ever ascending from an enslaved world. Break these bonds asunder; and send the nations forth, walking and leaping and praising God. Prince of Peace! take to Thyself Thy great power and reign. Upbuild the walls of Zion, and hasten the fulfilment of the glorious things spoken of the city of God.

Have mercy on the afflicted—the poor—the orphaned—the widowed—the friendless—the sick—the dying. Reveal Thyself to all such as the Great Physician. May those lamenting the earthly loss of loved ones—fallen asleep in Jesus—rejoice that to them the shadow of death has been turned into

the morning, and that the Lord their God has become their everlasting light.

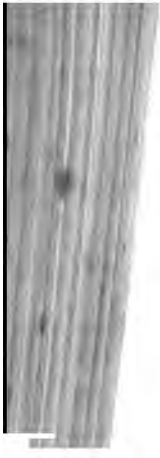
Bless those connected with me by ties of kindred or affection. Be Thou to them as a pillar of cloud by day, and as a pillar of fire by night. If Thou sendest them blessings, may they connect every gift with the Great Bestower; —if Thou givest the full cup, may they be enabled to carry it with a steady hand. If Thou appointest them crosses, may they have strength to bear them;—afflictions and bereavements, may they regard them as Thine own special messengers sent on a mission of wisdom and mercy. However far we may be separated from one another here, may an entrance at last be ministered unto us abundantly, into the abiding Home, whose walls are Salvation, and its GATES, PRAISE.

Anew I commit myself to Thy gracious protection. Give me quiet and refreshing sleep, and spare me, if it be

Thy will, to see the light and to enjoy the comforts of another day.

And now, unto Him who alone is able to keep me from falling, and to present me faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy: Unto Him who loved me, and washed me from my sins in His own blood;—Unto Him who, Himself having overcome the sharpness of death, has opened the Kingdom of Heaven and the Gates of Righteousness to all Believers,—be ascribed all blessing and honour, might, majesty, and dominion, world without end. Amen.

"OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL GO INTO THEM, AND I WILL PRAISE THE LORD."



"Oh

go your way

into

His Gates

with

thanksgiving."

Ps. c. 4.

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